This work must be consulted in the Boston Medical Library
8 Fenway

Given By

David Clark, Eng.
OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

Dr. Roget's lectures.

Dr. Roget has, this season, commenced a new Course of Lectures on Comparative Physiology, at the Royal Institution, and has announced his intention of devoting it to the consideration of the physiology of the external senses. He gave a view, in the introductory lecture, of the general principles or laws of Physiology, resulting from the application to that science of those rules of philosophical induction, which have already been so successfully followed in the other departments of physical knowledge. But as the phenomena presented by living beings differ so widely in their character from the changes that take place in inanimate matter, the application of these rules to physiology is attended with infinitely greater difficulty. The rigid order and mathematical prescription so conspicuous in all that relates to the inorganic world, are no longer discernible when we come to survey the phenomena of life, either in the vegetable or animal kingdoms of nature. The simple laws of mechanics and chemistry, are insufficient for the explanation of this latter class of phenomena, which evidently imply the operation of principles, very different, from those which govern inorganic nature. It is quite impossible to reduce these phenomena to a simple law, in the same philosophical sense, in which the movements of the heavenly bodies are reducible to the single law of gravitation. But by studying them with reference to final, instead of physical causes, a new principle of arrangement is introduced, which gives to the whole science of Physiology a new aspect, and creates an interest of a different and superior kind, to that which the mere physical relations of cause and effect are calculated to inspire.

Dr. Roget proceeded to the investigation of the character of the several powers which are concerned in the production of the phenomena of animal life, and which appear to have been superadded to the ordinary physical powers inherent in unorganized matter. He noticed, in the first place, several peculiarities in the mechanical organization of the parts of animals, in the structure of which, he observed, there prevails, even in the simplest cases, a much greater complexity than at first view appears; and he gave some account of the different opinions of anatomists, respecting the nature and properties of the element or tissue of which their fabric is composed. He explained the mechanical properties of the cellular and membranous parts of the body, as resulting from their peculiar mode of organization, and exhibited an experiment in illustration of the hygrometric property of animal membrane. Muscular contractility, of which the effects are so remarkable, and which is a property so characteristic of animal life, was next presented as a subject of inquiry. Dr. Roget took a review of the most celebrated hypotheses, which have, from time to time, been devised for explaining the phenomena of muscular power; pointing out, at the same time, their inefficiency, insomuch as their admission would involve much greater difficulty than the simple fact which it is proposed to explain. He then gave some account of the theory on this subject, which has been advanced by Dr. Prevost and Mr. Dumas, and which has excited considerable attention on the Continent, founded on the newly discovered laws of electro-magnetic attraction. The conclusion to which these physiologists have been led by their observations and experiments, is, that muscular contractions are the result of an attraction between the nervous filaments distributed to the muscular fibres, consequent on the transmission of currents of electricity through these nervous elements.

The Doctor next considered the agency of those new forms of chymical affinity which are developed during the processes of assimilation, secretion, and nutrition, and which appear to control and modify the operations of the ordinary affinities in the same materials, when deprived of life or assisted by organization. He proposed to designate by the term organic affinities, by way of distinction to the latter, which constitute the whole of the chemistry of inorganic substances.

The powers inherent in the different parts of the nervous system constitute other departments of this inquiry, in pursuing which Dr. Roget established a distinction between the simple nervous power, or property of transmitting certain impressions, and the sensorial power, or capability of exciting sensation, and other mental changes—changes which lead to such important consequences, and which stamp the care of individuality on the beings they compose.

He concluded this lecture with some observations on the gradation of powers, and the subordination of functions, exhibited in the system of living animals, and on the overwhelming magnitude of those widely extended plans, and elaborate adaptations of means to ends, in a series reaching far beyond our view, that are revealed to us by the study of every part of the animal economy.

DR. SMITH'S LECTURES.

Among the novelties during the present season, is also a course of Lectures on the Application of the Medical Sciences to Purposes of National Economy—by Dr. Gordon Smith, the author of several works on subjects of that nature. As we fully coincide with the Managers, on the importance of bestowing public attention on matters of such interest, and as the study has been very much neglected in this country, we propose to offer a brief outline of the discourses in question—which, on the present occasion, are to be four in number only—the immediate object being to describe the nature of the study, and to clear the way for more minute investigation hereafter, should they be encouraged.

The first lecture was delivered on Thursday the 11th of February, and was well received, although the lecturer labored under the disadvantage of evident indisposition. He began by an allusion to the extensive acquaintance that is required with many sciences in order to obtain a competent knowledge of the labour and the application to the extent of the healing art; and after noting the disadvantage of having, contrary to ordinary practice, to maintain, in limits, the importance of the subject, (because the neglect with which it had heretofore been treated, could not have impressed the audience with that favorable disposition which usually accompanies the entrance on a new study,) he assigned his reasons for designating it by the general title of Political, State, or Public Medicine, in preference to the more common term, Medical Jurisprudence. In this view, medicine embraces much that has been accounted the business of the statesman and politician generally, as well as what the physician or surgeon, as it thus advances the prosperity of the whole community; while physic, in its ordinary acceptance, regards merely the welfare of the individual whether in the social, or separate state—whether savage or civilized.

The general subject comprehends two great branches—the first consisting of the application of the lights of medical science to the aid of the magistrate in his judiciary inquiries; and the second, including the principles and considerations that should influence the enactment of laws and municipal practice, for the preservation of the public health. The former branch has been termed—Legal, Judiciary, or Forensic Medicine; and the latter—Medical Police. Practical applications of these are to be found in the earliest history of social institutions; in illustration of which the lecturer referred to the Books of Moses, as containing various excellent ordinances for the public welfare. In tracing the history of Political Medicine, as a science however, nothing digested, or systematic, can be found till after the revival of learning; for among the ancients, and through the dark ages of modern history, the reign of superstition and bigotry was unfavorable to the advance of useful knowledge, especially if dependent on familiarity with the arcana of nature. Allusion was made particularly to the use of anatomy; against which there exists to the present hour, a feeling, if not of superstition, yet of an influence equally unfavorable, "operating powerfully to cause the decline of surgical knowledge—the sad effects of which must, ere long, be very extensively felt." The science, as it now exists, seems to have sprung from the Constituto Criminalis of the Emperor Charles V., adopted at the Diet of Ratisbon, in 1532, and pointing out particular cases in which the tribunals were to call in the aid of medical men—thus arising in Germany, in which country it has been since most assiduously cultivated; as also in Italy—the writers of which have contributed many and very ponderous tomes in that department, down to the present hour. In France also, since the Revolution, corresponding assiduity has been displayed. Observations were made on the practice in that country have contributed eminently to the advance and improvement of the study.
In Great Britain, although it has been the custom to require the aid of medical men on similar occasions, there has been much dissatisfaction with the manner in which it has been afforded. The study was never noticed in English literature till within these forty years; and the first English production in Forensic Medicine came out so recently as 1815. Since then, the labors of several authors have been published in forms more or less copious; and in the opinion of the lecturer, the future advance of the science will be promoted rather by the consideration of particular subjects, than the accumulation of general treatises.

Political Medicine has long been an established branch of education in the continental universities: it is one of those sciences that books cannot properly teach, inasmuch as it depends greatly on experimental investigation, and consequently demands the acquisition of manual dexterity, and the experience of the external senses. To constitute an accomplished medical jurist, more even than this is required—for he may be called upon to give his opinion on points, due acquaintance with which is not to be obtained without investigation that will carry him out of the ordinary province of the physician, and require familiarity with the economy of distant regions.

The lecturer proceeded animadvert upon the state of the London Medical Schools, in which there is no opportunity of attending lessons on this important subject—on the injurious consequences of imperfect attempts that have been made to give instruction in a manner supplementary to other branches, and on the advantages that would accrue to the public in general, and to the medical student in particular, by exacting from the latter a course of study of this nature. The professorship of legal medicine, in the University of Edinburgh, has had comparatively little influence in promoting this species of knowledge, because, in the lecturer's opinion, it has not been made essential to the obtaining academic honors, that the student should attend the lectures delivered from that chair.

He then made a few observations on the importance to public justice, of all intelligent men—all, for instance, who are liable to be called upon as jurors—acquiring some knowledge of those services, to whose phraseology the men are so often obliged to give ear, and whose bearing they are compelled to estimate; and took occasion to exonerate the medical profession from a portion of that obloquy which has been cast upon it as a whole. He thought that the ground of inept examination on the part of those whose business is to conduct evidence. While there are many points of Forensic Medicine that cannot be properly taught but to medical men, he considered the scheme of instructing intelligent persons generally as perfectly practicable.

At the close of a few hints, more directly addressed to his professional brethren, on the great importance and proper method of the study, he alluded to a fair and inviting field which a public appearance might afford to a medical man, in acquiring confidence and approbation. Hitherto, the situation of a medical witness has been painful to himself, and often injurious to his reputation. All this is ascribable to defective preparation for this duty, and unwarranted reliance on general professional knowledge. It has long been a subject of complaint—a matter of regret—that the world cannot judge fairly of medical character. Dr S. considered that competent displays before the world would bid fair to remove this grievance. He touched upon a point on which, as he has just published some observations of the faculty, he did not enlarge, viz. the supposed exemptions from public burdens enjoyed by the medical profession, and pronounced the idea to be erroneous.

The discourse concluded by a few observations on the principal schemes that have been resorted to for the arrangement of this branch of Political Medicine, and a general outline of the many topics that fall within its forensic scope. Into this we need not follow the lecturer, as we shall have an opportunity of noticing some of these, when presented in detail. It is fair, however, to add, that he expressed considerable regret at the necessity of presenting, on the present occasion, nothing more than specimens of the study, in thus introducing it to public notice.

PHYSIOLOGY.

The following is abstracted from a paper by Mr Majendie, in the last number of the Journal de Physiologie.

The Fifth Pair of Nerves.—Since I published my last experiments in the April Number of this Journal, I have made a great many others to confirm what I had already the results then obtained. Fortunately I have but little to reject from the facts already made public, and it remains therefore certain that the fifth pair does exert a very great influence on the sense of smell, on the sight, and on hearing; and that it is itself the organ of taste, of the general sensibility of the face, and of the cavities there situated. It is also certain that the fifth pair has a considerable influence on the nutrition of the parts to which it is distributed.

I have recently tried experiments on the other nerves distributed to the orbit, and I have found that the fourth and sixth pairs of nerves, when pinched, cut, or lacerated, do not present any trace of sensibility. These attempts simply gave rise to some convulsive motions of the globe.

The portion mollis of the seventh pair, or the auditory nerve, now remained to be examined, and this nerve is usually considered to be very sensitive. This, in the opinion of physiologists, is on the same scale of sensibility as the retina; and the severe pains produced in the ear when its innervation is interfered with, the nature of the fibres, and the sense of hearing itself, would lead us to expect and compare the least vibrations of the air, the acute sensibility of the tympanum, &c. all appear legitimately to support the opinion which had been formed of the sensibility of this nerve. Besides, the acoustic nerve touches at its origin, the fifth pair, and in many animals they say it is only a branch of it.

All these reasons are without doubt very plausible; but adhering to our mode of study, which has often upset the greatest probabilities, we attempted to touch the acoustic nerve, on the cranium, but failed. We afterwards removed the portion of the cranium, and lifted up about a third part of the pons, and even the lobule lodged in the cavity of the temporal bone. We could then see the fifth pair coming out from the pores to pass over the petrous portion, and the acoustic nerve entering the internal auditory foramen. We touched successively the two nerves; and each time that the fifth pair was touched, even in the most gentle way, signs of the most acute sensibility were shown, whilst the animal remained immovable when the trunk of the auditory was touched, pressed, and even torn. I have as yet only performed the experiment on a young dog and on rabbits: if future attempts confirm the truth of it, we see again another structure deprived of the properties usually ascribed to it by physiologists. If it be so, then the extreme sensibility of the ear, as well as that of the eye, must be attributed to the branches of the fifth pair which are distributed to that part.

LETTER FROM DR MYDDELTON.

Believing it would be as gratifying to our medical friends, as it was to ourselves, to peruse the following communication, we give it an insertion, strongly recommending to those who are interested in the Doctor's mode of treating pulmonary consumption, to avail themselves of the necessary information, by making application to the gentleman alluded to below, who is annually qualified to answer the minutest inquiries.

Sir,—A much esteemed friend, in your city, transmitted to me the American Statesman, of the 28th ultimo, in which an article appears, copied from your journal, referring to my method of treating pulmonary diseases. While I gratefully acknowledge the favourable impression which my theory seems to have made, it is due to that theory, and the community, to correct some practical inaccuracies. As I am on the eve of my departure, and, of course, much occupied, I regret that my time will not admit of my entering into detail; I must, for the present, content myself by referring my professional brethren to Dr Jackson, to whom I have given notes which may be useful to them; an inhaller, also, is deposited at the hospital.

Dr Jackson's community and ardent love of science are too well known to suppose for a moment, that he would hesitate to let the inhaller and those notes be copied, by any medical gentleman who may have occasion for them, as a guide.

In the article alluded to, I am represented as a native of Staffordshire; it is true I have been senior Physician to the General Hospital of that county; some years after I had ceased to lecture on a branch of medicine to the medical classes of Philadelphia, but I am, by birth, a Welshman. I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. P. MYDDELTON.

New-York, May 5th, 1825.

PHYSICIANS IN HAVAI.

We have recently had a conversation with a respectable citizen of Haya, who sailed from Boston on Sunday last, who assure us that young Physicians from the United States would meet with ample encouragement in that republic. The population of Port au Prince is about thirty thousand, and yet there are only twelve Physicians in the place. In the interior, there are complete towns, or districts, which are wholly without Physicians & Surgeons, and the inhabitants are frequently under the necessity of sending to the ports to procure one, who, of course commands an enormous fee.
Probably, with industry and perseverance, by a residence of six or eight years, a genteel competency might be realized, and the adventurer could then return to enjoy the sweets of his enterprise, in the land of his nativity. "Nothing venture, nothing have."—The expense of a voyage from Boston to Hayti is but a trifle. Two hundred dollars would enable a stranger to spend three months, and return again if he should not meet with patronage. There is a medical board of directors appointed by the government, whose duty it is to examine the credentials of persons who are wishing to establish themselves in practice, and if they are satisfactory, the same board use every exertion to promote their business. Medical degrees from any college in the northern states, are sufficient to ensure the sanction and co-operation of the medical police, who are particularly anxious to possess a well qualified and judicious number of Physicians and Surgeons throughout the island of St Domingo.

Should any young medical gentleman feel desirous of making the experiment of a voyage, for the purpose of improving his fortune, by making application to the editor of the Intelligencer, he can be furnished with all the necessary letters which he will require for an introduction to the medical department of Hayti, as well as to some of the principal citizens.

Perhaps there is no climate in the world more congenial to the health of foreigner, than that of Hayti.

TO OUR PATRONS.

This number commences the third volume of the Medical Intelligencer, which from a limited circulation, has extended itself to the remotest boundaries of the United States; and with such success, we are emulous to exert every faculty, and employ every laudable means of making the work a valuable book of reference, as well as a frequent messenger of all the important local and foreign transactions in the medical world. Our resources were at first limited, as well as our subscription list; but the former have augmented in proportion to the latter, and we can now command the earliest medical intelligence, both at home and abroad: and from the interest which the first professional gentlemen have taken in our undertaking, we feel a strong confidence in believing our friends will not be dissatisfied with our future labors. Certainly, a publication of this kind must possess several advantages over the generality of medical journals, as it is not only afforded at a reasonable price, but it presents the reader with a condensed view of all important articles which are given in expensive periodicals, and also furnishes a vast variety of local matter, with which every medical man in the community is more or less interested.

The task of an editor of a paper exclusively devoted to medical science, is, perhaps, more laborious than one unacquainted with its various perplexities would suppose; and we are therefore desirous of receiving all communications which will have a tendency to lighten the burden, and at the same time be promoting the great object which has invariably been in view—to collect important facts and observations, and embody them in such a form, that the mind can embrace them at once, without being exhausted by useless detail. Papers of this description have become the most popular medium of medical intelligence in various parts of Europe, and although we have been the first in America to make the experiment of printing a medical journal once a week, we hope our endeavors to serve the profession will never be thwarted for want of patronage. By an industrious course, two volumes of the Intelligencer have now been completed, and we contemplate that encouragement from a liberal minded faculty, which will still enable us to persevere, with increasing hopes of usefulness, in the cause of science and humanity.

CIRCULATION OF AIR IN ROOMS.

To render the circulation of air sensible, let the air of a room be heated by a strong fire, while the air of a contiguous room is cold; then let the door between the two rooms be opened, in which case, the hot air of one room being lighter, will pass through the upper part of the opening of the door into the cold room, and, on the contrary, the cold air of the other room being heavier, will pass into the former through the lower part of the opening; accordingly, it will be found, that by applying a lighted candle to the top, the middle, and at the lower part of the opening between the rooms, a strong current of air will appear to pass from the hot into the cold room near the top; a contrary current of air will appear to pass from the latter into the former, near the lower part, whilst in the middle there is little or no motion at all, as may be clearly perceived by the flame of the candle. It is for the same reason that when a fire is lighted in the chimney, a strong current of air is occasioned to enter the room, which may be felt by applying the hand to the key-hole, or other such small openings, if the doors and windows are shut, for the air over the fire being heated, becomes lighter, and ascends into the chimney; consequently the colder air must supply its place, which forces its way through all the small openings. Were a room with a fire in it to be perfectly closed, excepting the chimney, the air in it would soon become unwholesome for respiration, and the fire would soon be extinguished. Hence it appears, that those persons mistake who expect to keep the air of a room sweet and wholesome, especially for invalids, by carefully stopping all the small apertures that admit fresh air. When the current of air that enters into a room falls immediately upon the persons who sit in the room, then it may be offensive, especially to delicate constitutions. In that case, such openings should be closed, but at the same time another should be made in a more convenient part; for a circulation of air, particularly in rooms where a fire is kept, is not only salutary and useful, but absolutely necessary.

REPORTS.

SINGULAR CASE OF HERNIA.

A married woman, of middle age, on one of the islands below the harbor of this city, a short time since, had a strangulated hernia. An opening formed from the tumor, and a considerable portion of the intestine sloughed off. From the peculiar location of the woman, it became exceedingly difficult to obtain a Physician, and her husband therefore, as the only alternative, as he supposed, gave her enormous quantities of physic, before the sloughing took place.

There was a great relief from pain, after the faces began to discharge at the artificial opening, where they continued to pass off about ten days, when the orifice again closed, the discharges readily took a natural course, and the patient now remains in perfect health. We have understood she was not visited by any Physician or Surgeon, till after the cure was perfectly completed. This case is certainly without a parallel, and deserves the minute investigation of some gentleman who is qualified to make a satisfactory report.

DR QUADI'S CASE OF DOUBLE VISION.

The following singular case of Double Vision, cured by operation, is given in the Medical Observer, by Dr Quadri, of Naples:—

After having used all the most energetic remedies in vain, he conceived that the disease was owing to some affection of the optic nerves, and ordered the patient to take Richter's pills. The patient, however, became worse; and, on examining the eye, the iris appeared sound, the movements of the pupil regular and rapid; there was no spectra, or small objects, complain of as floating before the eyes, so common in cases where the nerves are affected. Dr Quadri conceived the disease to arise from the vitreous humour, which contained a certain quality of cellular substance, at the inner angle of the right caruncle, which threw the eye out of the centre of the orbit; and he was confirmed in that opinion upon finding that the diplopia disappeared when the eye was carried inwards or upwards.

The author, therefore, laid open the right caruncle, by means of a small pair of forceps, took away three small pieces of cellular substance; the wound healed by the first intention, and the patient was relieved. This encouraged M. Quadri to repeat the operation some few days after, in the same manner and to the same extent. After this second operation, the wound was closed with a point of suture and adhesive plaster. The inflammation after this operation was more considerable, but was relieved by leeches, and the wound healed in a few days. The disease was quite cured. M. Quadri conceives that the inflammation which took place after the last operation, increased the density of the cellular substance, so as to destroy the tendency to grow, which it had before evinced.

PARCENTESIS.

By Dr J. B. Chamberlain, of Howard, Upper Canada, April 1st, 1825.

Elizabeth Arnold, widow of the late Jeremiah Arnold, of this place, aged thirty-seven years, was eight months since affected with a swelling of the left side, which appeared to be an enlargement of the spleen—upon which an intermitting fever supervened. This affection of the spleen soon abated, but did not wholly disappear; and the fever subsided by the use of the usual means. A tumefaction of the abdomen, and a swelling of the lower extremities followed, which resisted the ordinary means of cure in such disorders—and finally terminated in a confirmed ascites, or dropsy of the bowels. I proposed a consultation, and accordingly, Dr E. Hurst, of Detroit, was called. After proper examination and due consideration of the case, the operation of Paracentesis, or tapping, was agreed upon; which was accordingly performed by Dr Hurst, with great accuracy and expedition. In the course of one hour, thirty beer quarts of a clear thin yellowish fluid were drawn off. The patient, though much emaciated and exhausted,
sustained the operation without complaint or fainting. Indeed, the vital powers seemed to be reanimated by the evacuation; and there seems to be some hope of a favorable issue of the case. I think there is no record of a case in which so great a quantity of fluid has been extracted in so short a time; and I think I may venture to appeal to all living practitioners for a parallel instance. The after treatment and event of the case, shall be given to the public in due time.

**VARIETIES.**

Supposed Rupture of the Heart.—It is not long since we had the privilege of examining the external appearances of a remarkable tumor on the left breast of a woman in New-Lebanon, N. Y. the day after her decease, which, from all that we could see and learn of the case, appeared to have been a rupture of the heart. It is lamentable, that previous to this there has been so much interest in a civilized community, as to throw every possible obstacle in the way of professional men, in their laudable endeavors to investigate diseases by post mortem examinations, when it must be obvious to every rational being, that there can be no other object than to benefit the living—From a slight indisposition, with the appearance of a very small tumor protruding between the sixth and seventh ribs, scarcely four days elapsed before the woman expired, when the tumor had increased to the size of a two quart bowl, and not only covered the whole surface of the left side of the chest, but filled the axilla to a level, and even extended to the elbow, having all the strongly marked appearances of the extravasation of a very great quantity of blood, directly under the pectoral muscles. If the heart had not ruptured itself, what was the disease?

**FEE-BILL OF THE BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.**

The following table contains the lowest fees, which shall be charged for the services, to which they are respectively annexed; but in proportion to the importance of the case and of the advice offered, or in consequence of extraordinary attendance, the charge shall be increased; and the members of this Association consider themselves bound to increase their charges agreeably to this rule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First visit charged</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First consultation visit</td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each do. do. after the first</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising in the night and visit</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case of Midwifery in the day</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice at the Physician's house</td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit on board a vessel at the wharf</td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case of the long and narrow</td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation visit at either of the above places</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First visit</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each subsequent visit</td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case of delivery in the night</td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td>New operations, as amputation of large limbs</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intoxication, and extrication of large tumors</td>
<td>$1</td>
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The Boston Medical Intelligencer

| Operation of fistula in Ano        | $20  |
| Tapping for dropsy, and reducing luxations or fractures of large bones | $10  |
| Ampu. of fingers or toes, and excision of small tumors | $8  |
| Reducing luxations or fractures of small bones, stitching recent wounds, opening large abscesses, and similar operations | $5  |
| Passage of bowels | $1  |
| do. do. frequently, without charging the visit | $1  |
| Venesection, in addition to the fee for visit, when at the patient's house | $1  |
| Extraction of tooth, or dressing at Surgeon's house | $1  |
| The same operation at patient's house | $1  |
| Case of Gonorrhea | $1  |
| All other cases of Syphilis | $15  |

**Massachusetts Medical Society.**—The Annual Meeting of the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, will be held at the Medical College, Massachuset, Boston, on Wednesday, the first day of June next, at ten o'clock, A. M. The discourse of John D. Whelton, M. D., will be read at the Massachusetts Medical College, on the subject of "The Principles of Surgery," by Dr. William P. Parke.

**Rockingham District Medical Society.**—At the annual meeting of said Society held at Exeter N.H. on the first Monday of May next, the following gentlemen were chosen officers of the Society for the ensuing year:—Dr. Israel Gale, Newton, President.—Dr. William P. Parke, Exeter, Second.—Dr. Charles A. Cheever, Portsmouth, Third.—Dr. John Dow, Brentwood, Secretary.—Dr. William Perry, Treasurer and Librarian.—Dr. E. W. Gale, Epping, Assistant Secretary.—Dr. Prescott Lawrence, Epping, Assistant Secretary.—Dr. George W. Gale, New-Market, Auditor.—Dr. Luke, Hampton, Dr. John Clark, Seabrook, Dr. John Seabrook, Dr. Prescott Lawrence, Hampstead, Library Committee.—Dr. George W. Gale, New-Market, Author.—Dr. Lawrence, Hampton, Dr. Seabrook, Seabrook, Dr. Lawr. Epping, Hampstead, Dr. Gale, New-Market, and Dr. E. W. Gale, King, were elected members of the Society at the present meeting.

**THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE.**

The Medical Department of Columbia College consists of Thomas Swell, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; James M. Stangton, M. D. Professor of Surgery; Thomas Henderson, M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Materia Medica. Full courses in Chemistry, Botany, and Physics are given by the present Professors, till the Chairs in these branches, shall be filled, by future appointments. In this Department, there are twenty-two Students.

**LIGHT PRODUCED BY CRYSTALLIZATION.**—M. Buchner having mixed some impure benzoic acid, perfectly dry, with the sixth part of its weight of vegetable charcoal, put the mixture in a copper plate, which was covered with a cylinder luted to it by almond paste, in such a manner that what took place in the interior could be distinctly seen through an aperture disposed for that purpose. After the whole had been exposed several days to a moderate heat, and some beautiful crystals formed, it was removed to a hotter furnace, and half an hour afterwards M. Buchner observed a brilliant flash of light in the interior of the cylinder. A succession of rapid flashes were alternately produced and continued half an hour, when it was taken off from the furnace and examined. A great quantity of crystals of benzoic acid were deposited. They resembled the common crystals, but were produced in a different manner, by a more moderate heat and without light, except that they were less regular. M. Buchner attributed this phenomenon to a neutralization of electricity, as it was repeated with success, when the crucible was placed on the inner surface of the cylinder. The same effect has been noticed on crystallizing acetate of potash, and in preparing oxygen by means of chlorate of potash and manganese.

**NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN LONDON.**—A Supplement to the Pharmacopoeia: being a treatise on the several branches of the materia medica. By John Dunngton, M. D. Lecturer on Midwifery, &c. — A Treatise on the Nature, Symptoms, and Cure of Cataract.


**MEDICAL DEGREES, &c.**—In a convocation held on the University of Oxford, Eng. for the purpose of electing a Professor of Medicine, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Hume, M. D., James A. Ogle, M. D. of Trinity College, was unanimously chosen; and degree of Bachelor in Medicine was conferred on John Wootten, Bailod. — At the University of Cambridge, the degree of Bachelor in Physics was conferred on Benjamin Gay Robbington, Pembroke Hall. The degree of Doctor in Physics was conferred on R. P. Smith, Calais College.

**IMPORTANCE OF ANATOMY.**—A pamphlet has been issued from the press of Wells and Lilly, on the importance of Anatomy, an analysis of which we shall present our readers with in a future number.

**MANUFACTURE OF OPium.**—Dr. Webster Lewis, of Lewisburg, Penn. lately read a paper before the Harbursburg Medical Society on the cultivation of the Papaver somniferum, and transmitted a specimen of opium, manufactured by himself, equal to the best foreign opium of the shops.

**ANACONDA.**—Dr Sydenham had a patient whom he had long prescribed for; but his prescriptions were inefficient, and, at last, Sydenham acknowledged that his skill was exhausted—that he could not pretend to advise him any further. But, said he, "there is a Dr Robinson, who conducts these cases, who is skilled in these complaints than I am; you had better consult him. I will provide you with a letter of introduction, and I hope you will return much better." The patient went to Dr Robinson, and was treated with much success; but travelling was a very different undertaking than from what it is now, and a journey from London to Inverness was not a briling one. He arrived, however, at the place of destination; but no Dr Robinson was to be found, nor had any one of that name ever been in the town. This of course enraged the gentleman very much: and he took the road back to London, raging, and determined to get a Dr Robinson. On his arrival, he wanted all his rage on the latter, and abused him for sending him a journey of so many miles for nothing. When his fuey was a little abated;—"Well, now," said he, "I'll see what he can do with you." So he took the road to Inverness again, and was found, and treated with much success. "Better do," said he; "yes, Sir, it is better. I am Sir, as well as I ever was in my life; but thanks to you, for that." "Well," said Sydenham, "you have still reason to be satisfied." Dr Robinson. I wanted to send you a journey, with an object in view. I knew it would do you good; in going, you had Dr Robinson in contemplation, and in returning, you were equally busy in thinking of sending me.

**WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.**

Ending May 13th; from the Health-Office Returns.

May 5th:—Marion W. Colburn, 14 mo.; Lydia Nason, 23; Mary Foulton, 10; William Foulton, 10; Walter Foulton, 30; Robert Foulton, 50; John Mahler, Jr.; Samuel Foulton; 20; Mary Foulton, 16; John Nicholas, 10; Mary D. Loring, 9; Hannah Hall, 76; Charles H., Hubbard, 9; William D., 18; Sarah B., 13; Samuel D., Clark, 13; Margaret Fulto, 27; Robert A., 10; Amos Monroe, 28; John C., 27; Joseph N., 29; Joseph N., 39; Lawrence, 20; D. E. Hulbro, 5; Alex Needham, 27; Martha Wood, 3; John Davis, 124; Deborah G. Wheeler, 19; John Davis, 12; — George Campbell, 4; Daniel McVeigh, 2; I. B. —

**Mueller, 5 —Inflammation of the Bowels, 1 —Still-born, 1 —Inflammation of the Lung, 1 —Lung Fever, 3 —Paralytic, 1 —Infantile, 1 —Contracted, 1 —Dropping from the Brain, 1 —Dysentery, 1 —Hopping-Cough, 1 —Drowned, 1.**
OBSEVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

Dr. Roget's second lecture.

Dr. Roget, in the prosecution of the plan he had announced in his introductory lecture, began, in the second lecture, to examine the Sense of Touch; which is the simplest of the external senses, and the one most universally diffused in the animal kingdom. The purposes for which it has been bestowed, are, to acquaint us with the presence of external bodies, and with such of their properties as we are more immediately interested in perceiving. The impressions conveyed to the mind by this sense are variously modified in different cases; the distinctions arising from these modifications, and the circumstances which produce them were explained.

The structure and uses of the integuments were next considered. These are essentially the same in all vertebrated animals; although, in different orders, some of their constituent textures are more or less developed, so as to give rise to great diversity in external appearance. Dr. Roget described several of these constituent textures; beginning with the corium, or true skin, which is the most important, and generally the thickest, of the layers which compose the skin. The mechanical and chemical properties of the corium were adverted to; and its affinity for the tanning principle illustrated by experiment. The cutaneous papillae which are seen on the external surface of the corium, and the vascular plexus by which they are supplied with blood, which together constitute what Cuvier has termed the corpus papillare, and which he considers as a distinct layer of the skin, were described; and their structure explained by drawings on a large scale, exhibiting their appearances when viewed with the microscope.

Dr. Roget next pointed out the offices of the epidermis or cuticle, which serves to defend the extremely sensible surface of the corium from the mechanical and chemical action of surrounding bodies, and is also highly useful in giving proper modifications to the impressions made by the contact of these bodies, so as to render them subservient to the purposes of Touch. Its peculiar organization was noticed; and likewise the changes and renovations to which it is liable, both in the natural and diseased conditions of the body. In the course of this inquiry, Dr. Roget took occasion to offer some remarks on certain falacies to which microscopic observations are liable, when very high magnifying powers are employed. The sources of this optical deception may be traced to the irregular dispersions of light refracted by spherical surfaces. The illusive appearance of a great number of serpentine and convoluted fibres, produced by these causes, has misled many inquirers, and rendered their observations of little value.

The existence of the cuticle before birth, and its greater thickness in these parts, such as the palms of the hand and soles of the feet, which are destined to sustain the greatest degree of friction, were noticed as one of the numerous instances of provident care in the original adjustments of the different organic structures to the circumstances in which they are likely to be placed in the progress of life.

The different opinions of anatomists with regard to the rete mucosum, which is interposed between the epidermis and corium, were next discussed; and the connection which subsists between this membrane and the color of the skin, in different animals, and in different parts of the same animal, was pointed out. The different races of mankind have a differently colored rete mucosum; thus, while it is white, or pellucid, in the European, it is yellow in the Chinese; of a copper hue in the American; and of a deep black in the negro. In the maimed labi- or, it is of a bright scarlet on the skin of the nose, and of a violet hue on the cheeks. Similar diversities of color appear in the legs and toes of many birds, and in the neck and cheeks of the vulture. The various hues of tortoise-shell, in like manner, derive their origin from the natural colors of the mucous webs in the corresponding parts; which is also the source of the variegated skins of serpents and of fishes, so frequently admired for their extreme beauty and splendor.

The deficiency of this constituent portion of the skin, or its present natural pellucidity, gives rise to those varieties in animals, which have been termed Allinians. Many instances of this singular deviation from the ordinary structure occur in the human race, especially among negroes; but it is also frequently met with among various species of quadrupeds.

Dr. Roget concluded this lecture by giving an account of the structure by which the porcine erects its bristles, and the hedgehog is enabled to roll itself into a ball when assailed by its enemies. He also explained the organs which form secretions for defending the skin, against the injurious action of the surrounding elements.

Dr. Smith's second lecture.

Dr. Smith's second lecture was delivered on Friday, the 18th of February. Proceeding to the more particular consideration of that class of medical, legal, or forensic questions, which includes all inquiries into the cause of death more, especially, and indeed prominently arising out of criminal agency, he first entered upon the question of its reality. In alluding to the pangs that has occasionally been excited on the subject of being buried alive, and regarding, for a brief but appallingly space, a degree of consciousness in the grave, he denounced such an idea as a bugbear. Admitting the possibility even of consigning a person not yet critically dead to the tomb, such treatment would be the most effectual method that could be devised of cutting off all chance of resuscitation. In the hurry and confusion attendant upon such a unnatural mortality as accompanies the plague, or a singularly mortal battle, a mistake of this kind may occur; or where the custom prevails of burying precipitately, there may be cause for apprehension; but in this country, the practice of retaining the body above ground for a considerable time, is a sufficient guarantee against such an alarm.

Allusion was made to the treatment of the dying, and a caution introduced as to the propriety of persevering occasionally in attention where the last breath may, to appearance have been yielded, and avoiding those rude and violent practices, to which nurses and others are occasionally prone, whereby the fatal event may be infallibly insured, although the prolongation of life, and even the result of recovery, might have rewarded a judicious observance of a different line of conduct.

Proceeding to the causes of death, out of which matter for judicairy inquiry may arise, allusion was first made to those that are met with in the common course of events—which occur, however, under unusual circumstances, and may require medico-legal investigation. Sudden death may arise from disease, or from external influences exerted by natural phenomena. Thus exposure to cold, hunger, and fatigue, which often kill, may do so without witnesses, and in such situations as to afford no explanation of the nature of the case, beyond such as may be drawn from a proper examination, of the appearances in the body. Similar, in their forensic aspect, are mortalities from noxious gases, to which the sufferer may have been improperly exposed, to lightning, and other causes—among which was noticed that very strange, and yet unexplained event, that has designated spontaneous human combustion; but in the view here taken of these influences, they are not connected with the result of criminal imputation.

Proceeding to questions which do involve that issue, some notice was taken of poisons—as the most troublesome when they come before courts, and as affording the most frequent occasions for dissatisfaction with medical testimony—which Dr. Smith imputed partly to its being often unfairly sought, and imperfectly or unduly appreciated. Toxicology is one of the topics of Forensic Medicine that cannot be taught without the aid of experiment and demonstration, and has reached such magnitude and extent as to require many lectures to do it justice. After a few general remarks on what ought to be considered poison—on the modes of arranging the subject, either according to the powers and properties of the articles included under that name, their effects on the living system, or derivation from the various kingdoms of nature, and division of these—as mineral, vegetable, animal, or gaseous—he proceeded to the more immediate business of the Medical Jurist, in a case of alleged poisoning, viz. the verification of the fact.

This, till a comparatively recent period, was a vague, and often hopeless, undertaking. Modern accuracy in anatomical observations, and the unparalleled advance of chemical science, have introduced means of proving or disproving such allegations as already must, in many very difficult cases, satisfy the most scrupulous, and bid fair to render our knowledge on such matters as perfect as can fairly be expected. In illustra-
tration of these general observations he made a few remarks upon arsenic, as being one of the most powerful poisons, and as that which has been the most conspicuous article of attention in legal Toxicology; and quoted two celebrated trials which arose out of accusations of poisoning by this substance.

The first was the affair of Blundy, which took place in 1752, on which case Dr Addington was the principal witness for the crown. This gentleman's evidence was remarkable for the pains that had been taken to institute a set of experiments, in order to draw accurate inferences as to the identity of the deleterious substance that had been swallowed with arsenic. A portion of the powder that had been administered to the deceased was compared as to its sensible qualities, with a portion of white arsenic, and they were found to be the same. An equal quantity of each was dissolved in a certain quantity of water, and tried by the same test; the changes produced were the same; and Dr Addington spoke in the most positive terms as to the conviction of his own mind, concerning the identity of the two substances, and the consequent evidence of that which had been administered to the deceased being arsenic; and yet the more accurate knowledge which chemistry has introduced concerning these matters, shows that none of the tests used by Dr A. indicated the presence of arsenic; but merely of substances with which the white arsenic of the shops is adulterated.

The other trial took place at Launceston, in 1817, upon an accusation against a medical man of having administered arsenic to a lady, who died in consequence thereof. Here a most accurate chemical investigation was instituted by a physician, perfectly competent to the task, and who considered that he had detected the presence of the poison by the most approved tests; but other medical witnesses, on the part of the prisoner, alleged that they had produced similar appearances by the application of some of these tests, where no arsenic was present. They also declared the symptoms under which the deceased had labored prior to, and the appearances discovered in the body after, death, to be those of a disease, of which none of them had ever seen a fatal instance. Their experiments, too, have been shown since to have been misappplied: but as the crown witness was not prepared to enter into the merits of phenomena of which he had not heard, and had not carried his investigations the length of re-producing metallic arsenic from the contents of the stomach, the prisoner was acquitted.

In the course of a few remarks on corrosive sublimate, further exemplifications of the duty of the Medical Jurist were adduced.

With regard to vegetable poisons, the rapid progress of chemical discovery has enabled us to trace and detect them in many cases, where till very recently, it was considered a vain undertaking. The detection of the alkaloid principles, of many of the most active plants, have been of the greatest and most beneficial importance in Toxicology.

A few observations were then made on detecting the cause of death by direct violence; and the lecture concluded by a very interesting case from the Principles of Forensic Medicine.
BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

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shrub that could be procured. The old ones were carried out, and fresh ones brought in every morning; and, I am of opinion that, when they are brought in with the dew upon them, they are more efficacious: at all events, they must be made very wet with cold water, and be in considerable quantities, so as to cover the whole room."

In one case, our correspondent adds that they appeared to revive a patient almost at the point of death.

Mr. S. adds several quotations from Fernelius, Nic. Fontana, &c., who advocate the same practice; and finally he objects, and we think with great reason, to the abstraction of large quantities of blood in pure fever likely to assume a typhoid character. — *Lon. Med. and Phis. Journa.*

THE WHOLE ART OF PHYSIC:
IN A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A PRINCESS AND HER PHYSICIAN.

*The Wise for Health an Exercise depend; God never made his Works for Man to mend.*

PRINCESS. Oh! Heavens! I am mortified to death—I thought that Physicians could have cured all disorders.

PHYSICIAN. We never fail of curing those that would have recovered of themselves. And this is a general rule, admitting a very few exceptions, with respect both to internal complaints and external wounds. Nature herself will do the business, where the disorder is not mortal; and, where it is, art is of no use.

PHYS. What! then are all those choice nostrums, for purifying the blood, which old ladies talk so much of—all your boasted quills and powders! are they good for nothing?

PHYS. Mere invention—to get money—and to flatter the sick, while nature is working the cure.

PHYS. But your specialties; surely, there are such things?

PHYS. Oh! certainly, madam, and so there is the winter of juvenility in romances.

PHYS. In what then is it that medicine consists?

PHYS. In disincumbering and clearing; in keeping in proper order the fabric you cannot rebuild.

PHYS. Yet there are salutary things, and things pernicious.

PHYS. You have hit upon the whole secret.—Eat, moderately, of what you know, by experience, to agree with you. Nothing can be wholesome that does not digest well. What is the physic that promotes digestion? Exercise. What is it that repairs the strength of the body? Sleep. What is it that alleviates incurable maladies? Patience. What shall mend a bad constitution? Nothing. In all violent cases, we have nothing but Medicine's tincture—bleed and evacuate; and, if you please, "cysternum donum." There is no fourth. The whole is nothing more than what I have told you, to keep the house clean, &c.

PHYS. You do not surfeit me with your wares; however, you are an honest man; and, if I am a Queen, I will make you my first Physician.

PHYS. Let your first Physician be Nature. It is she who does the whole. You see that, of those who have survived an hundred years, none have been of the faculty. The King of France has already buried forty of his Physicians—

PHYS. Very true; and I hope to bury you, too! farewell, Doctor—

PHYS. Bon jour to your highness. (Execut.)

The first sentence in the work before us is a truism, and were it more generally admitted, there would be a final end to the hue and cry against public or private dissections.

"The basis of all medical and surgical knowledge is anatomy. Not a single step can be made either in medicine or surgery, considered either as an art or a science, without it. This should seem self-evident, and to need neither proof nor illustration; nevertheless, as it is useful occasionally to contemplate the evidence of common observation, it is shown why it is that there can be no rational medicine, and no safe surgery, without a thorough knowledge of anatomy."

Passing over another leaf, we come to an excellent sentence, although it is better calculated to interest the anatomist, than the general reader.

"Notwithstanding the partial knowledge of anatomy which must have been acquired by the accidents to which the human body is exposed, by attention to wounded men, by the observance of bodies killed by violence; by the huntsman in using his prey; by the priest in immolating his victims; by the augur in pursuing his divinations; by the slaughter of animals; by the dissection of brutes; and even occasionally by the dissection of the human body, the century after century passed away, without a suspicion having been excited of the real functions of the two great systems of vessels, arteries and veins. It was not until the beginning of the 17th century, when anatomy was ardently cultivated, and had made considerable progress, that the valves of the veins and of the heart were discovered, and subsequently that the great Harvey, the pupil of the anatomist who discovered the latter, by inspecting the structure of these valves; by contemplating their disposition; by reasoning upon their use, was led to suspect the course of the blood, and afterwards to demonstrate it. Several systems of vessels in which the most important functions of animal life are carried on—the absorbent system, for example, and even that portion of it which receives the food after it is digested, and which conveys it into the blood, are invisible to the naked eye, except under peculiar circumstances: whence it must be evident, not only that the interior of the human body must be laid open, in order that its organs may be seen; but that these organs must be minutely and patiently dissected, in order that their structure may be understood."

We really wish every man who thinks himself liable to have broken bones, would commit the following clause to memory, and particularly so, if he is a member of the Massachusetts legislature.

"To the Surgeon, anatomy is eminently what Bacon has so beautifully said knowledge in general is: it is power—it is power to lessen pain, to save life, and to eradicate diseases, which, without its aid, would be incurable and fatal. It is impossible to convey to the reader a clear conception of this truth, without a reference to particular cases."

The fate of Sir Philip Sidney is a melancholy illustration of this truth. This noble-minded man, the light and glory of his age, was cut off in the bloom of manhood, and the midst of his usefulness, by the wound of a musket bullet in his left leg, a little above the knee, "when extraction of the ball, or amputation of the limb,"
BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Which threatens the severest penalties if we presume to practise surgery without a thorough knowledge of anatomy, it would surely excite the apprehensions of legislators, if it did not do some thing towards effecting a change.—After all this, we have much reason to fear that prejudice will still have a controlling influence over our wise law-makers, and instead of inducing expectations that relief will be afforded the anatomical departments of our valuable, enterprising schools of medicine, we should be disappointed if they were embarrassed by many additional burdens.

VARIETIES.

THICK SKULLS.—The following extract from Dr. Crighton's Inquiry into Mental Derangement, proves that the proof is anatomically correct when applied to the human body. The results are very remarkable, that the skulls of the greater number of such patients are commonly very thick; nay, some have been found of a most extraordinary degree of thickness. From 8 to 14 of patients of this description, whose bodies were inspected, there were found 167 whose skulls were unusually thick, and only 23 thin ones; among which last number there was one which was much thicker on the right side than on the left, and the patient was in some sort of delirium at the time he was observed, that among 100 raving madmen, 78 had very thick skulls, and 29 very thin ones; among which skulls there was one quite soft. Among 26 epileptic raving madmen, there were 19 found, with very thick skulls, and four very thin. Among 16 epileptic idiots, there were 14, and among 20 epileptic patients 10, who had very thick skulls; among whom there was one discovered, one side of whose skull was thick, and the other thin. Among 24 melancholy patients there were 18 with very thick skulls; and, lastly, among 30 idiots, 22 with very thick, and six with very thin skulls. All the others had skulls of a natural thickness.

SINGULAR FACT.—It is a singular fact, attending the Seneca Lake, that human bodies which sink in deep water never rise again. Within twelve or fifteen years past, probably more than the same number of persons have perished by accident drowning in the waters of the lake—and never, in a single instance, has one of them been known to rise again to the surface. Many precious lives might have been spared; and it is impossible that this phenomenon,—as, for instance, that at the bottom of the lake, where immense springs, the currents, eddies, and bubbling of the water, the pond is in constant motion, which, in settling, covers over the bodies of persons who have been thrown in, might not or may not be one cause—but that the lake is supplied from countless springs, no one, we think, will deny.

POSTHUMOUS WORKS OF MR. BELL.—A work is now in press, in England, from the pen of the late distinguished anatomist, John Bell, Esq, brother to the equally celebrated Charles Bell, of London, containing observations upon Italy, chiefly made during his residence in Florence, where we believe he died. Mr. Bell's skill as an anatomist is well known, and as an artist he possessed no ordinary talents. Many of the finest anatomical engravings which adorn Mr. Bell's works, have been engraved entirely by himself. As Mr. Bell did not live to complete the above work, only one volume will be printed, which will be edited by his widow.

FAUNA AMERICANA.—Dr. Richard Haden, of Philadelphia, has in press a valuable work, in one octavo volume, entitled Fauna Americana, and containing an interesting description of the mammamans of North America. This work is of importance to Natural History, and comprises a number of species hitherto imperfectly described or unknown. This is the only attempt of the kind which has been made by an American naturalist. Dr. Haden is Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the Philadelphia Museum, a distinguished member of many scientific societies, and a gentleman amply qualified for the undertaking.

LITHOTOMY.—The operation of Lithotomy was performed at Royalton, Vt. on Wednesday the 4th inst. by Dr. Murray of Hanover, upon a young man 22 years of age. The stone extracted by estimation, and measured 1 1/2 inches in its greatest, and 1 inch in its smallest diameter—and although it adhered to the coats of the bladder, causing a perplexing impediment to the escape, Mr. Mead attended the patient, in less than the minutes from making the first incision.—Woodstock Observer.

HEALTH OF PORTLAND.—Our correspondent in Portland informs us that the weather has continued fine in that town, but owing probably to the coolness of the atmosphere, they have been quite mild, and confined within the limits of two or three families. We have also chicken-pox, and occasional cases of hooping-cough among children and young persons have been noticed. Colds are still common, and chronic complaints were never more general.

CRANIOLOGY.—A skull recently found in a Russian cemetery, has been examined, and probablenesses are said to have been discovered, which has escaped the researches of Dr. Gall; such as the organ of savage life, the organ of bathing, the organ of military reviews, the organ of the know, and the organ of filial love.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society will be held at Manchester's house, 21st of 9 o'clock, A. M.—The Council will meet on Monday, May 30th. The Censors will also meet on the same day (Monday) for the examination of candidates.

ROYAL ACADEMY.—Sir Anthony Carlisle has resigned the anatomical lecturership in the Royal Academy, which he has held eighteen years in succession.

RICHARD MEAD, PHYSICIAN.—M. Freinds, first Physician to the Queen of England, had assisted at Parliament in 1722, as representative from the borough of Newgate, and stood forth with force against the minister. This behaviour having offended the court, they charged Freinds with the crime of high treason; and he was confined in the month of March in the town of London. About six months after, the minister fell sick, and sent for Richard Mead, another Physician, and intimate friend of Freinds. After being made thoroughly acquainted with the illness of the minister, he told him that he would answer for his cure; but said he would not give him so much as a glass of water, until Freinds, his friend was released from the tower of London. The minister some days after, seeing that his illness increased, entreated the king to grant the liberty of his friend, which he readily did. Mead then imagined that Mead would prescribe what was proper in his situation; but the Physician persisted in his resolution until his friend was restored to his family. After this release, Mead attended the minister, and procured him in a little time a perfect recovery. The same evening he carried to Freinds about three thousand guineas, that he had received for his fees in attending the patients of his friend during his confinement, and obliged him to receive this sum, although he might have lawfully retained it; because it was the fruit of his labor.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending May 20th; from the Health-Office Returns.


Measles.—9-Croup, 1-Consumption, 4—Intemperance, 1—Lung Fever, 3—Dropsy, 2—Teeth, 4—Meningitis, 1—Flax, 1—Stillborn, 1.

Dr. in England, Dr. A. P. Riceham, son of the late well known Dr. Buchanan, author of "Domestic Medicine." At York, (N. E.) Dr. George Gilman, 28.
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No. 3.

OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR ROGET'S THIRD LECTURE.

Dr Roget, in his third lecture, gave an account of the structure and formation of some of the appendages to the skin, which, from their total want of sensibility and of distinguishable vascularity, as well as from their chymical composition, have generally been regarded as allied to the cuticle. They are, for the most part, intended to protect the skin and subjacent parts from injury, though they are occasionally subservient to purposes of offence and defence, and sometimes to those of progressive motion. But however they may differ in their forms, uses, and external appearance, they all take their origin from the same kind of pulpy structure, composed partly of a congeries of vessels, and partly of a gelatinous substance, in which those vessels are imbedded. The different modes in which the future figure and extent of these productions are determined by the original form, situation, and disposition of the vascular pulp from which they grow, were pointed out, and severally explained. The general results of their chymical analysis were stated—more particularly in those points in which they stand distinguished from the parts which perform an analogous office in the lower orders of animals.

Hair is the natural investment provided for the mammalia, and is almost exclusively confined to that class of animals. Its mode of growth from a minute vascular pulp, situated within the interior surface of the corium, or true skin, where it derives its nourishment from a set of vessels, distinct from those which nourish and repair the epidermis, was detailed at length. The structure of the bulb of the hair was fully described. It is composed of a pulp and vascular portion, and an investing capsule, from which the root of the hair proceeds; and it is itself contained in a sheath of condensed cellular membrane, which invests it on all sides, and forms a tube for the passage of the shaft of the hair through the skin. These several parts were represented by drawings on a large scale, by which their structures and connections were rendered intelligible. Many curious particulars were stated as the result of microscopic observations on hair: the various opinions entertained by physiologists, as to their consisting of bundles of filaments; as to their being tubular, or containing a central pith; and as to the inequalities of their surface, whereby they admit of the operation of feltig, the foundation of so many useful arts, were discussed. The chymical properties of hair, though in general similar to those of horn, were stated to differ in some respects from the latter. The color of hair appears to be derived from two kinds of oil, discovered by Vauquelin, and separate from it by alcohol. The black color of hair is owing to the predominance of iron as a coloring matter in these oils, while an excess of sulphur imparts a yellow or orange tint to the hair. The different proportions in which the component parts exist in hair, produce various modifications in its mechanical properties of cohesion, density, and elasticity. The electric and hygrometric properties of hair were next adverted to; and the results of the experiments of De Saussure, and of Bryan Robinson, on this subject were stated. Various circumstances were also detailed respecting the growth and regeneration of hair, and the changes in color which it undergoes in different states of the system. The diversities of structure that are met with in the hair of different tribes of mammalia were next noticed: the more complete structure of the larger hairs that compose the whiskers of some animals—such as those of the cat kind, and of the seal—was described: and the gradation pointed out by which we are conducted to the bristles and quills of the wild boar, of the hedge-hog, and of the porcupine.

Dr Roget next gave an account of the structure and formation of the claws, nails, hoofs, and other analogous appendages to the feet of quadrapeds; and of the modifications they receive during their growth from the nature of the vascular pulp from which they proceed, and the mode in which the horny materials composing them are deposited. The peculiarities in the growth of horn in the ruminant tribes were described, and contrasted with those of the horns of the rhinoceros on the one hand, and the deciduous antlers of the deer tribe on the other, which are often improperly denominated horns.

An outline was given of circumstances attending the periodical development of these singular productions—the history of their rapid increase—of the branching forms they assume—of the subsequent obliteration of their vessels, and removal of their investing membranes—and of their final separation from the bones of the head, after a certain period has elapsed, altogether composes one of the most curious and interesting subjects in animal philosophy. Such is the extraordinary vigor in the powers of nutrition displayed at these periods by the circle of vessels at the basis of the bone, that the antler of a stag, weighing thirty pounds, will be completely formed in ten weeks. The horns of the camelopardalis present us with an example in which a process is commenced similar to that of the antler in the deer, but is arrested when it has effected the growth of bone to a certain length, and is not followed by the obliteration of the vessels, and the consequent denudation and loss of the horn, which therefore remains as a permanent structure.

Dr Roget concluded by noticing the extensive chain of analogy which may be traced in the development of all these organs, and also of other parts which are root of sensibility—such as the teeth of animals, the tusks of the elephant, and the more complex processes employed for the formation of feathers, scales, and shells—which he announced his intention of explaining in the ensuing lecture.

FRIDAY, FEB. 25.—Proceeding from the Medical-legal questions that arise out of assassination, to those connected with Suicide, Dr Smith considered that a medical man, if otherwise intelligent, and possessing a tolerable share of acuteness, would often be able to discriminate between cases of the one description and those of the other. In alluding to the charge brought against his brethren, of being divested, by familiarity with, and of some of those susceptibilities that operate upon others, he argued that they should be imputed, to prejudice and clamor, and incapable of being swayed by so volatile an impulse as we frequently see agitating the public mind. The duty of the medical jurist is, never to reconcile the appearances found in a dead body to any current story concerning the case; but to draw from these the most probable inferences, to their cause, that scientific knowledge will suggest or approve of. In illustration of this subject, he referred to the story of Lord Essex, in the reign of Charles II., concerning the manner of whose death there was, perhaps, less diversity of opinion than of explanation. Bishop Burnet apparently signed with that which laid to the deceased's own charge, while, by way of confirmation, he quotes a medical opinion which is irreconcilable with such a conclusion. Dr Smith also noticed the statement of Sir Edward Home, respecting the attack upon an illusory personage, which contains a very curious exemplification of the nature of medical proofs. In similar cases, and a striking testimonial in favor of the importance of such investigations.

Sometimes a professional opinion is sought as to the length of time that may have elapsed since the death of a person, whose body has been found under doubtful circumstances; and a very striking exemplification of this was quoted from Dr M'Ala's work, where a commission of bankruptcy was superseded by the verdict of a jury, which decided, upon the evidence of S. G. Gibbs, that certain changes in the body must have taken a longer period to make their appearance than had elapsed from the date of the commission—consequently, that the subject of it could not have been alive when it was issued. This turned upon the fact, that animal fibre becomes converted into a fact substance resembling spermaceti, by lying a certain time in water; and that to produce it in any quantity requires a definite period.

Occasionally a very important question, as to the succession to property, depends on ascertaining the fact of survivorship, among several persons dying together, as by one common accident, such as shipwreck, &c. Illustrations were quoted from the evidence now and then required to establish the right of tenancy by courtesy of law, in cases of the death of both mother and son, and in the case of a curious distinction between the battle of the Dunes, and the litigations that arose out of the loss of the family of General Stanvix, who were all drowned on their passage to Ireland, and of Colonel James and his lady, who perished in the wreck of the Grovesnor Indianan, on the coast of Africa.

Dr Smith next alluded to the subject of Infanticide, for the purpose of protesting against the
practice (which has lately prevailed) of discrediting the proofs of vitality in the new-born infant, as afforded by physiological research. He admitted the difficulties with which the subject is surrounded, and threw the original blame of misleading the judicious authorities on the medical profession itself; but, as the matter is one fact, he deprecated censure to those who, in the performance of a disagreeable duty, unavoidably arrive at inferences unfavorable to the accused, at the same time paying a just tribute to the humanity that prevails in our courts towards those unfortunate females who are brought to the bar under accusation of a dreadful crime, which, in Dr. S.'s own opinion, is rarely committed.

There are many physical questions that attract the notice of tribunals, and require the lights of medical science, not at all connected with destruction to life. They used formerly to be a great deal of trouble with injuries not fatal—as the old law phrase of cutting and maiming, the pleas that now and then arose out of the celebrated Coventry act, and some others evidenced. These are reduced to a very narrow compass by the modification of the law which assigns the criminality of a deed to the individual who has committed it, and not to the result. But there are very important physical considerations, not (directly at least) connected with criminal inquiries at all—such as disqualifying an individual for the exercise of social or civil functions. In this country, these are chiefly restricted, as far as they admit of general reference, to marriage, military service, and the care of one's own person and interests.

Dr. Smith confined himself to a remark or two on insanity, as connected with the last of these. Waiving all attempt to give a history of the disease, or to examine into the modifications or divisions assigned to it, either by lawyers or medical men, he considered, that in forming an opinion as to the fact of a person's derangement, the latter, if duly intelligent and judicious, must possess advantages in the identification, as well as in the cure of the malady; and in estimating the state of the person laboring under it, there are many most important points to which professional men alone can speak, and upon which the authorities must refer to them.

All the real infirmities of human nature may be imputed, or pretended, where they do not exist. Dr. Smith next introduced a few remarks on impositions—consisting chiefly in feigned diseases new, but formerly embracing a wider range of practice. Medical men in charge of public establishments, especially those in the army and navy, meet with much curious illustration in the art of deceiving; and were the history of the Mendicity Society made known, perhaps the public might derive amusement, if not benefit—only these impostors are now less common (at least in London) than used to be the case.

The Lecturer having exceeded the limits originally assigned to Forensic Medicine, proceeded now to a rapid outline of the second great branch of Political Medicine—termed Medical Police.

He began with some remarks upon the circumstance of general health being much under the influence of climate, and considered that we possess many advantages in that of our own country, where indeed it is ascertained that invalids, who, till lately, were in the habit of wandering to continental countries in search (too often a vain one) of prolonged existence, may find the benefits of adequate temperature, combined with the comforts of English accommodation. With regard to the atmosphere, it is occasionally charged with deleterious bodies that do not enter into its composition—as the emanation from marshy surfaces, or from other infecting sources, contained in the soil of particular places, that give to them an unhealthy character—a fact sufficiently illustrated in the ugroh parts of certain counties in England.

These, and other natural phenomena, that affect the salubrity of countries and situations, ought to be kept in view when forming new establishments; and should be corrected, as far as wealth, power, and industry can be made available for such a purpose, in places already the abode of crowds, and the scite of property and interests too stupendous to be arbitrarily removed. Camps, barracks, and all buildings in which great numbers are to be congregated—as in manufactories, and public institutions of various kinds; and especially, where, the inmates, whether in constriction or confinement, are cut off from the advantage of regular escape from an atmosphere, or other agents, unfavorable to health—as in hospitals and prisons—the choice of situation should be carefully attended to. In the mode of constructing buildings of every description, particular attention should be paid to facilities for applying fresh air, and promoting cleanliness.

Even in towns, which might be done in this way; and where there is abundant space, inattentiveness to these, and similar matters, is unpardonable.

The great advantages resulting from such attentions (united with others), are strikingly exemplified in the revolution that has taken place in naval economy. Of itself, few situations can be imagined more calculated to impair health than long residence on board ship; and the annals of no very distant period tell many a deplorable tale of suffering. Now, the mortality of seafaring life is perhaps below that of terra firma, owing to unremitting attention in regard to health police.

The discipline of prisons is very much a matter of Medical Police. In alluding to the questions of the tread-wheel, Dr. Smith did not seem inclined to give an uncautious opinion; but he placed the matter, with respect to the employment of females, in a new point of view. He supposed the case of the prison being on fire, and the effect that the sight of the women working the engines would present—an exercise by no means so likely to do injury, as the other application of feminine power.

A few remarks were added on the mismanagement of chylophobia in a circumstance unfavorable to health. They are damp; and not only so, but, being often shut up during the week, wholesome emanations collect about the floors and walls, which, where there are stoves, are thereby frequently assisted in their noxious tendency, being thrown into greater activity by the fires being kindled a short time previous to the arrival of the congregation.

AIR, DIET, EXERCISE, AND SIMPLE MEDICINES.

Pure air is even more essential to life, than food daily taken into the body for its sustenance; for animals will live a long time without nourishment, but, when deprived of air, they perish in a few moments.

This element is always found to partake of the nature of soil and water; and is more or less healthy, according to the situation of particular places. The human constitution will, therefore, be variously affected by its qualities, whether good or bad; for it is not only continually taken into the lungs by breathing, and largely mixed with our food, so as to make a part of the animal system, but also is continually pressing on the surface of our bodies, according to its different degrees of lightness and gravity.

The qualities of dew, which is nothing but water impregnated with such animal, mineral, or vegetable substances as arise in vapor from the earth, afford the best means of ascertaining the local purity of air and water, joined to the customary longevity of the inhabitants of such places.

Rich soils lying low, near marshy banks of lakes, or large rivers exposed to the sun's heat, or south-west winds, are extremely unwholesome; and the prevalence of such places being damp, and loaded with the corrupted steams of animal and vegetable bodies, which there rot, and are dissipated in putrid vapor. Such situations will dispose the body to a lax, blunted, scurfy habit; also to nervous disorders, agues, a dropsey, consumption, and putrid fevers.

The best preservatives against putrid diseases of every kind are the Peruvian bark and acids, with a vegetable diet; taking care, at the same time, to promote the secretions of perspiration, urine, and stool. A decoction of black tamarinds, with cream of tartar, may frequently be taken to keep the body laxative; and, to promote urine or perspiration, nothing will exceed the efforts of nitre and Mindererus's spirit.

Elevated situations, in a chalky or gravelly soil, open to the east or north winds, and near the rocky banks of pure, running streams, however severe the air may be, are by far the most healthy. For the same reason, health and open commons, overspread with sweet-smelling shrubs, where the air is fresh and dry, are found to be healthy; but in woodland inclosures, where it is damp and confined, complaints of the bowels, rheumatisms, agues, and dropseys are frequent disorders.

By Diet is meant the food, or meat and drink taken into the stomach for nourishment; which being digested, and rendered cluayous, at last enters into the composition of our flesh and blood: this view, therefore, be considered as the very elements which constitute the substance of animal bodies. Hence changes, from sickness to health, may gradually be brought about by food of different qualities, adapted to the nature of particular diseases, which could not so easily be effected from medicinal substances; for the first is constantly received into the body in large quantities, but the last are only given by grains or scrupules, for a few weeks or days.

Both animal and vegetable bodies originate from slender beginnings: The bulk, superadded to the body since infancy, till it advances to the usual period of growth, at maturity, is all derived from the nourishment of its meat and drink; and the aconite yields its stamina, and gradually becomes an oak, by juices borrowed from the earth.
The regimen of Diet, as to quantity and quality, should not only be adapted to particular ages and constitutions, but also the nature of climates and degree of the patient's exercise. When the quantity is too great, the vessels will be overloaded and the body oppressed; if too small, it will waste and decline in strength.

In a word, whatever destroys the due balance between the solids and fluids will produce sickness and diseases; so that either very high or low living may injure the health; but of the two extremes the first is infinitely more common, and productive of greatest danger; since the several instances of longevity are chiefly to be found among those who live on simple diet; of habits naturally thin, and fair complexion.

On the other hand, those who live intertemporally, and fill their vessels till they are ready to burst, frequently die, before their time, of apoplexies or other violent diseases.

He who means to be a rational Epicure, and to exalt the pleasure of eating beyond the reach of a sensualist, must eat with great simplicity and moderation; for then only he will taste with his natural appetite, and give to the stomach no more than it can dispense with, consistent with his health. Some rich sauces, and all diseases, are grateful to some, they do not possess the genuine palate of nature, but one which is depraved; for children and young people disbelieve all such ailments, and never grow fond of it, till their taste is vitiated by habit and bad example.

In fixing a standard for temperance, our own feelings, or even the custom of the place, would be very insufficient guides; we should rather observe, in what degree of vigor and perfection animal life is supported among the poor, who live on the most simple fare, and in a manner conformable to nature.

General rules concerning diet must always have their particular exceptions, according to the different constitutions for which they are directed. Vegetable food is less nourishing, and more flatulent, than that of animal kind, but it resists putrefaction, and is most proper for those of strong, bilious habits.

How far the constitution may be changed, by a vegetable diet, is evident in those who have been cured of invertebrate scurvies by the plentiful use of fresh vegetables and pure water; and instances are not wanting, where even the sensible passions have been, in a great measure subdued by the same means.

HEALTH OF MAY.

Health may be much increased by the proper diet of the present season; and there are few better reasons for eating a meal of vegetables, than the effects of the season, the health of many, and the sickness of many others.

The virtues of vegetables as food, have been much talked of, and so have also been the virtues of vegetables as medicine; but the former is much more common, and the latter is much more rare.

The people have made greater ravages the present spring, than for many preceding seasons, and have also been more fatal among children; it is altogether probable this disease will still continue prevalent among that class who are the most inattentive to personal cleanliness. The remains of the influenza are still experienced.

May has brought, with its flowers, that peculiar languor which predisposes people to be less regular in their exercises than genuine health absolutely requires — This is the season when we often have to lament the loss of red cheeks, which are succeeded by the pale faces of young children. Perhaps the indulgences which people allow themselves when warm weather first approaches, may not immediately result in serious consequences; but at some period, the effects of unnecessary naps, excessive potations of any kind of liquor, and the sudden reduction of temperature which the body undergoes in putting off a winter for a light flowing summer dress, will arrive, and rheumatic twinges will be the strongest evidences of former irregurities.

Aged people require more sleep than the young, but at regular intervals. If they desire to be healthy in cold weather, let them be careful in the warm. Much sleep in summer portends a restless winter, and the observation is so true, that those who are naturally feeble cannot be too guarded in the habits they may establish in the spring.

This is also the riding season: let the consumptive patient be on horseback by six in the morning, and sickly children in a cold bath an hour sooner; and both will derive more benefit from following these injunctions, than by taking their weight of drugs, however skilfully prescribed. Instead of swallowing a glass of jambuicide bitters, to create an artificial appetite on a sultry morning, go without a breakfast till some invigorating exercise has given a proper energy to the system, and then the digestive organs will perform their appropriate functions without impairing themselves. The stomach which has been frequently stimulated with ardent spirits, predisposes the individual to a variety of tormenting diseases; but the man who presumes, out of his usual course, to provoke hunger by spirits, because he feels faint, in May, June, or July, takes a poison to his lips of a deadly character, whose effects will shatter the firmest constitution, and assuredly lay the foundation of chronic maladies, which medicine will never overcome.

May is a preparing month, but too many incalculably make the wrong preparations to insure health. It is that particular month, when all classes are anxious to emerge from their confinement at the first breeze, to break the pure air of spring, and too thoughtlessly divest themselves of the customary apparel of winter, for dresses which scarcely protect from nudity. Keep on the warm dress till there is more uniformity in the temperature of the days and nights—or every thin garment which too early succeeds a winter habituation, will bring with it a drop, an inflammation of the lungs, or a typhus fever.

SWEATING DOCTORS.

The public do not seem to be sufficiently aware of the danger which may arise from taking to that nostrum tribe of ignorant pretenders, the Sweating Doctors, as they are familiarly called. Cayenne pepper and lobelia are the principal internal remedies employed, to which is added a steam-bath of prodigious power. It matters not what the disease may be, the prescription is precisely the same in every instance. There is no mistake in this practice, because there is but one course of treatment; and hence the recoveries bear no proportion to the numbers who have probably fallen victims to a species of quackery, unrivalled in any preceding age.

The strong tincture of lobelia and cayenne are given to great extent, even in common cases, where there is no danger to be apprehended from the condition of the patient, who is moreover subjected to the operation of having the body enveloped in the folds of a rose blanket, while the temperature is raised to a degree that would ruin the constitution of the strongest man in christendom. Such is an outline of the sweating practice, which is substantially true, and yet there have been many instances of strong faith, where the unhappy sufferer has voluntarily repeated the bath and the vomiting, till death terminated their unaccountable infatuation. In illustration of the statement that sweating is invariably resorted to by these brazen-faced charlatans, the following case is related. About two years since, the brick wall of an old building in Union-Street, by some unforeseen accident, fell down, and beside crushing one person instantly to death, severely injured several laborers, among whom one man had his thigh fractured. At his earnest solicitation, a steam-doctor was called, who actually made his appearance with a back-load of sweating apparatus, just as a Surgeon had finished dressing the limb! What adds considerably to heighten the spleen against such stupidity, is the circumstance that saved the unhappy patient that "he might be relieved if he chose!"

Has the government a right to grant a patent for a particular medicinal preparation, the administration of which is attended with such manifest injury? The tincture of lobelia is a patent medicine, and confidence is inspired from this circumstance, together with the false accounts which are usually given at the time, of the incalculable benefits which have resulted from submitting to a thorough trial, under the care of one who has purchased the skill. There are five or six of these despicable mountebanks in the state of New-York, several in Vermont and New-Hampshire, many in Maine, one or two in Connecticut, and three in Boston, in the full career of business, and if well-informed people can suffer such cruel imposition to be practised upon the less informed part of the community, they at once show a want of feeling for the miseries of their fellow-beings. Humanity demands an energetic measure against every sort of empiricism, but the activity which should be manifested in suppressing the quackery of Sweating Doctors, would be an act which justice requires and the law of liberty imposes.

ANIMAL ENGRAFTING.

A Doctor Dieffenbach, of Berlin, has been performing some experiments on animal engrafting, which may, perhaps, have been the foundation, by mistake, of those ascribed to the Sieur Magendie. Besides several curious transfers of black chickens' feathers into white pigeons' tails, and vice versa, he has succeeded in the implanting of various plumage into the skins of puppies' kittens, and rabbits; and then again, of a cat, whiskers into the back of a plucked pigeon. A claw was also detached from a pigeon's toe, and translated successfully to its tail! Another pigeon, after being scalped, had its head mended with a flap cut out of its own thigh, which bore hair, however, instead of feathers; and a rabbit, after having its own nose cut off, was repaired again by the Talismanic operation. The Doctor, it seems, did not spare himself or his acquaintance, but deprived a friend, (a female one probably,) of an eye brow, and implanted it in his own arm. Could this secret be known to Dr Donne, who died, as appears from one of his elegies, with some such love-token, or bracelet on his person—

"Whosoever comes to shroud me do not touch,
Nor question much,
This sublile wreathe about my arm.

Donne's Elegies.

Perhaps our elderly gentlemen will take a hint from these operations, for a better way of hiding baldness, than by gluing a piece of false hair to their heads. There is an ox now exhib-
BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE PLAGUE.
Suggested by reading Gat's "Rothelion." By J. R. PRIOR.

"Bring out your dead!"—the pitman's cry.
"The Wagner is filling, and waiting night.
Cannot Fitz, or Mercy, or Love prevail?

No, "Bring out your dead!"

Not a word can be said.

The Plague will not listen to Sympathy's tale.

"Bring out your dead!"—the twins are not cold,
Their mother's fond fingers are clasped in their fold;
Let me get them a coffin, I'll dig them a grave.

Then art sickening—thy breath
Is receding to death:

The Plague will not heed whom to succor or save.

"Bring out your dead!"—that's a fruitless sigh.

The babe and the aged together lie;
[true.
They were dear to my heart, they were precious
And Bring them forth—in the heap.

They will quietly sleep:
And the Plague, lovely woman is calling thee too!

"Bring out your dead!"—let the coffins stay.
The Wagner is stopping—we bury away.

But I'm his uncle, he will leave me his wealth.

"This is a brand to

If thy race be run [health].

Ere the midnight—: the Plague does not travel past night.

"Bring out your dead!"—we are going to pray.
No priest can we purchase, the masses to say.

We but yesterday married, now must we die,
Let us, then, farewell to St. John.

Go to the channel below:

The Plague does not care, who together shall lie.

"Bring out your dead!"—both the Friar and Clerk,
We have taken with cross, book and band, in the dark;

The Nun and the Lady are vaulted alike.
From the Bridge to St. John,
All the orders are gone,
And the soldier is taken by his halbert and pike.

"Bring out your dead!"—throw his armor aside.
Let the weapons be moved, with his dress of pride;
Strip the gold and the jewels, the purchaser's dead—

Whose live, whose dead, or whose constellations—

Will soon be a spot to form, 
'Tis Infection's ground;

And it matters not, living, who.held' or smild.'

"Bring out your dead!"—the dead cannot hear;
The streets are in darkness, and silent and dead;
The houses are void, and the shutters are fast:
Both the rich and the poor
Have been brought to the door,

And the Pittmen, together, are buried at last.

BENZOIC ACID.—Mr Bollaert has detected the presence of benzoic acid in Botany Bay gum, in the proportion of about six per cent.; and in oil of cassia—a deposit from which crystalline filaments, consisting almost entirely of benzoic acid.

ANALYTIC REGISTER.—In the last No. of the New York Monthly Chronicle of Medicine and Surgery, we observe the following notices:

"One of the late numbers of the Boston Medical Intelligence announces the prospectus of a new medical journal about to be published in this city, under the title of Analytic Register. Will the editor obtain his information? If it be true, it has been most studiously concealed from the profession here. Shadows, clouds, and darkness rest upon it.

Shadows, clouds, and darkness rest upon it."

LECTURES IN PHILADELPHIA.—It is said there are twenty-six professors now engaged in lecturing on all the branches of medicine, in Philadelphia.

VARIETIES.

OIL OF MACE.—Some experiments made on oil of mace, by Mr William Bolhaert, communicated to the Journal of Science (January 22, 1852), have proved that this oil contains a peculiar principle, detected by Mr. Bolhaert, which is not obtained from the common oil of mace. It is of a whitish appearance and crystalline texture, perfectly insoluble in water, insipid, inodorous, and very fusible. Its boiling point is about 800 deg., at which temperature it may be distilled without much decomposition. The oil of mace affords about one-half of this peculiar principle.

CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART.—M. Bougon has presented to the Royal Academy of Medicine, the heart of a person who died in his hospital. This person showed very distinct marks of an old wound, which had penetrated the chest, and in which the heart was found. All these organs were cicatrized. This person died of disease not at all connected with the wound above mentioned.

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—The American medical profession will learn with great satisfaction, that Mr Samuel L. Jackson, of Philadelphia, is engaged in preparing for publication, a system of the Practice of Medicine, the whole of which has been compiled during the last five years. This work will be a valuable addition to medical literature in this country, and we anticipate its appearance with much pleasure, as we feel confident that a well written work by one who has had experience in the diseases of our climate, will greatly add to the value of the many miserable European compilations, which have been foisted on our medical public.—Phils. Med. Journ.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—Mr Dewey's works on the Diseases of Children, and on the Diseases of Females, are rapidly advancing, and may be expected during the present year. These, with his recently published System of Midwifery, are in a very great degree the result of his own observation during a long continued and ample practice.—Ibld.

CIPLA'S LITHOTRIPTIC INSTRUMENTS.—A late unopened box containing numerous circulars and announcement of the reception of a set of Cipla's Lithotryptic Instruments from Paris, by a distinguished Surgeon of New-York. From this we infer that the fact was not known that such instruments were brought to Philadelphia fully five months ago, by Professor Brown, of Transylvania University, and that not only have they been extensively experimented within this city, but the instrument has been several times approved by different instrument makers. Experiments were first made by Professors Physick, Gibson, and Horner, at the University of Pennsylvania, on the dead subject; and subsequently Drs Physick and J. R. Barton have operated on living subjects. The last and most perfect lithotryptor has been produced in this city by that ingenious and scientific artist, Mr Isaiah Lucas, and is allowed by all who have seen it to surpass anything yet attempted in this line. Doubtless Mr L. will meet with the most gratifying reception from Dr Cipla, on his arrival in Paris, as he will place in his hands an instrument better suited to the proposed operation, than could be readily conceived of by one who never had seen anything better than the original contrivance.—Ibld.

SWAIN'S PANACEA.—An artist of this city is now engaged in engraving a very laughable caricature of Mr. Swain's Panacea, in which several distinguished Physicians, who have degraded themselves and the profession, by recommending a vile nostrum to the public, will be easily recognized.

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending May 29th; from the Health-Office Returns.

May 21.—Slott Cloutman, 25; William Thomas, 5 mo. 22d.—John Gallagher, 47; Catharine Mahony, 5 mo. 23d.—Babbitt; Samuel Brown, 71; Caroline A. B. Balch, 52; Thea Coleman, 60; Catharine Utley, 26; Oliver Thayer, 6; — Selby; Sarah Ann Odel, 4. 23.—Maria B. Priest, 19; Eunice G. Bender, 14. 24.—Sophia Ann Hildreth, 13 mo.; Harriet A. Harrow, 4; Emily L. Roberts, 5; Jane Ross, 5; James Dean, 43; Betsy Smith; Lydia Ann Farnsworth, 13 mo. 25.—Patrick McDonald, 40; Frances Emily Low, 5; James O'tis Tilton, 4th. 27th.—Emily L. Johnson, 24; Elizabeth Lyndon, 5; Abram Bubbeoc, 55. 29th.—Linda Hardy.

Pneumopericeral Fever, 2—Fits, 1—Fever, 2—Stillburn, 2—Palsy, 1—Canker in the Bowels, 1—Burns, 1—Dropy in the Head, 1—Consumption, 2—Measles, 5—Sudden, 3—Disorder of the Stomach, 3—Lung Fever, 2—Inflammatory Fever, 1—Paralytic, 1—At General Hospital, 1—City Poor, 1.

DEAD.—At Geneva, Dr Cushing, at an advanced age. Dr C. took an active part in the investigations connected with the Yellow Fever; his works are before the public, and are distinguished by zeal, candor, and good sense.

At Sierra Leone,—Schuyt, Esq. Deputy Inspector of Medical Hospitals.

INTELLIGENCE.—Dr John Bernard, aged 82.

InVictor, Ontario co. N. Y. Dr William Jones, 50.

AGENTS FOR THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

Enos Holt, Esq. P. M. Northfield, N. H.
Frederick W. Laine, Esq. Narragansett, R.
Dr Elidia D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Birkell, Sherris Store, Twiggs Co. Geo.
Dr John Carra Lomau.
Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.
F. A. Klene, Esq. P. M. South River, N. J.
Dr Sherwood, Esq. P. M. Newport, Haverstrum Co. N. Y.
Dr Lomuel C. Paine, Esq. P. M. West Galesville, Church, Montgomery Co. N. Y.
OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR. ROGET'S FOURTH LECTURE.

Dr. Roget commenced his fourth lecture by pointing out the analogies which exist among the insensible appendages to the integuments in the mammalia, however these may differ in their external appearance. All the coverings belonging to the skin of quadrupeds, such as the hair, fur, wool, bristles, whiskers, and quills, as well as the nails, claws, and hoofs, with which their feet are armed, and also the horns of the rhinoceros, and the horny sheaths of a large proportion of the ruminant tribes, partake of the same general nature, with regard both to their mechanical properties and chemical composition. They all derive their ground from an organized structure of a vascular and pulpy texture, which secretes and deposits the materials composing them, in a certain determinate mode, and according to peculiar laws. All these structures continue to grow during the whole period of life, in order, as it would appear, to supply the deficiencies resulting from the wear and tear to which they are subject. Dr. Roget also explained the essential distinction that exists between their mode of increase, and the growth of the interior organs of the body.

In examining the insensible investments of the other class of vertebrated animals, Dr. Roget remarked, that we are able to trace the same affinities and the same chains of gradation, as in the mammalia. This he exemplified in the claws, talons, beaks, and bills of birds; and noticed the peculiarities in the several parts of the integuments, and of their appendages, in this class of animals. The structure of the feathers, and the series of processes employed by nature, in their formation and development, were explained at length. It would be impossible to enter into a detail of these processes, or to convey clear ideas of the nature of the changes by which the growth of a feather is accomplished, without reference to the drawings which were shown in illustration of those subjects. Dr. Roget explained on the beauty of the architectural contrivances displayed in these works of nature, and which are so plainly indicative, not merely of design, but of a most regular and studied plan of operations. The temporary structures which are formed for the purpose of supporting the finer and more delicate filaments of the plumage during their completion, and which, like the parts of the scadding of a building, are removed when this purpose has been answered, were pointed out as striking proofs of the refined art which is manifested in the construction even of the smallest feather. The curious mechanism was described, in which the barbs, which are allied to the shaft of the feather, are made to clasp into each other by the help of very minute fibrils, discoverable only with the microscope. It is remarkable, that in those birds which are not intended for flight, as the ostrich and the cassowary, these fibril either do not exist, or are so placed as not to be capable of performing the same office.

Dr. Roget proceeded to the description of the Integuments of Reptiles. He gave an account of the horny shells of the tortoise and the turtle, and of the sources of the variegated colors they exhibit. He noticed the strong subcutaneous muscle which surrounds the neck in these animals, and which enables them, on the apprehension of danger, to retract the head quickly within the shell. The singular anomaly presented by the different species of trionyx, or soft turtle, which are unprovided with any defensive armor, was also mentioned.

The various structures of the Scales of the Lizard and Serpent were next described, as also the mode in which the deficiency of these protecting parts in the batrachia was compensated. Microscopical views were exhibited of the scales of fishes, the formation of which constitutes a subject of interest, as it supplies a link in the gradation of structures by which we are led to the organization of one class of shells; while the osseous plates frequently armed with spines, which characterize the integuments of some families of fish, present an approximation to the structure of bone.

Shells, or the testaceous coverings of the mollusca, are the product of a peculiar power of secretion, which is inherent in the proper integuments of these animals. These integuments are constituted by a layer of gelatinous flesh, which, adhering to the body only in one part, and being folded loosely round so as to meet on the opposite side, has received the name of cloak, or mantle. The form and connections of this organ were shown in the aplysia, where, in consequence of the absence of any external shell, they are more easily observed. The various modes in which the mantle deposits the materials of the shell, and acquires the diversity of forms we observe in the different species, were explained by the illustrated diagrams, and specimens of the several kinds. These establish the distinction between the per Millennium, and the pearly shells, were traced to a difference in the arrangement of their component parts, at the period of their formation, and were illustrated by some chemical experiments.

The opinions of Poli, in opposition to the theory of Reaumur, on these subjects, were stated, as well as the experiments on which they were founded. The cause of the spiral turns which accompany the increase of the shell, and the singular history of the elongation of those muscles of the order of cephalopoda, which construct cameral shells, as the cuttlefish, and the cormorant; were explained; and the lecture was concluded by an account of the origin of the spines and other projecting parts, as also of the furrows and depressions that appear on the surface of the shells.

DR. SMITH'S FOURTH LECTURE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4.—Dr. Smith delivered his last lecture. It began with a notice of the influence that habits, modes of living and manners, exert on public health; these not being so much the offspring of principles, as, (in the first instance) of fortuitous necessity of circumstances, becoming confirmed by prejudice and habits, the most enlightened governments have seldom been able to do more than check great abuses, or devise remedies for great mistakes.

If the government of this country be less habituated to formal interference in these matters, the superior habits of the people, and the unparalleled exertions of private munificence, have (together with our climate) rendered such interference comparatively unnecessary. There are institutions for almost every exigency of public health, supported by private charity.

Among these, the Royal Humane Society was particularly noticed, as in fact a distinguished organ of Medical Police; and a few remarks were made upon the objects and mode of effecting them.

After an observation on the aid afforded by private enterprise, in protecting the public against the danger to health from accumulations of food and drink, the accidental sale of poisons, instead of medicines, was animadverted upon. The danger in question is one to which the community has been much exposed, with respect to various articles—of which it is sufficient to quote the magic history of oxalic acid. With reference to the various plans that have been devised for the correction of this evil, Dr. S. considering them all good, if they could be carried into effect, proposed a simple one, that might be compatible with, and even advantageous to, others already known.

It would consist in exacting that all articles, required in the apothecaries' shops, and sold for medicinal purposes, should be so affixed by the word "poisons" being affixed to it in the most conspicuous manner; and that this label should be on the highest part of the shop, out of ordinary arm's length, requiring the aid of steps to reach it; that the articles to be there kept should be specifically named; that no others should be allowed to stand along with them; and that a heavy penalty should be attached to the neglect of this rule, by allowing any of the articles in question to remain, for however short a time, in any other part of the laboratory or shop. Such a regulation would prevent the inadvertent substitution of a dangerous article for a safe one, for most of the cases of mistake have arisen out of the facility with which a careless, though not ignorant, dispenser of medicines might herebefore lay his hand upon the wrong bottle, drawer, or whatever it might be, in which the article was contained. Under such a regulation some positive intent would be unavoidable connected with a similar occurrence. The purchaser would also possess a complete guarantee in knowing the nature of the precaution as to the local situation of all articles of a dangerous description.
Dr. Smith then introduced the subject of public sickness with a remark on the antiquity of precautionary measures to prevent the spread of contagion. He distinguished between the terms epidemic and contagious—the former implying a prevalent disease, and communicated from one person to another, but depending on some common cause; and the latter belonging to a disease which is caught from a person laboring under it, by direct or indirect contact. There has been a discrepancy of opinion, however, even as to the fact of contagion; at this moment an attempt is making to overturn the general belief, as to its connection with the plague. This opinion, should it again attract the notice of the legislature, with a view to revise if not to rescind the Quarantine Laws, will become a matter of intense public interest.

The best medical authorities, however, are decidedly of opinion that the utmost vigilance is at all times necessary to guard against the importation of this dreadful scourge.

A few remarks were added on Yellow and Typhus Fever, both of which appear to be sometimes propagated by contagion, though they may arise under a variety of circumstances, without being referrible to that source in the first instance. The latter disease often prevails in London, and in the southern districts of this country; and, by not noticing the regulations that should be adopted to arrest its ravages, the importance of ventilation, cleanliness, and the purification of infected clothes and dwellings, was especially pointed out.

Small Pox, (as a prevalent disease) had almost taken its place in history, has, of late, been committing great ravages; and is at this moment prevalent in the neighborhood of London. Dr. Smith decidedly ascribed it to neglect, or mismanagement of vaccination. A new objection was anticipated, as not unlikely to be brought against this safeguard—viz. that its powers are limited as to duration; or, in other words, that after a time it wanes, and leave the constitution again exposed to the original susceptibility of Small Pox contagion. He examined the force of this, upon the supposition that it might be so (which as yet does not appear to be ascertained), but deprecated the return to Small Pox inoculation, the dread effects of which could not be foretold; and, upon the ground that vaccination does guarantee for a period only, contended that the repetition of the practice, could not be considered as even an inconvenience.

In conclusion, he submitted a few hints on the importance of promoting the cultivation of Public Medicine, by the institution of professional authorities, to whom, in all doubtful cases, recourse might be had, not only for opinions, but for the performance of experimental inquiries, that individuals under the ordinary circumstances of professional life, may often be unable to accomplish in a satisfactory manner. The appointment, also, of intelligent medical men as Coroners, would probably be advantageous. With regard to Medical Police, in particular, he considered that a series of lectures might be given with advantage in a detailed manner; after the way had been thus, in some measure, cleared by the outline or syllabus of the subject now brought to a close.

**AIR, DIET, EXERCISE, AND SIMPLE MEDICINES.**

*(Concluded from page 16.)*

Pure water, another simple medicine of sovereign efficacy, is that elemental fluid designed by nature for the nourishment of all bodies, whether animal or vegetable: it softens and dissolves the food in the stomach, attenuates corrupted bile, dissolves the sharp salts and rancid oils, and washes them out of the body by the secretion of urine. How superior is this inestimable liquor, gushing from the pure bosom of a rock, as from the cell of nature, to all the artificial compounds which luxury, or human invention can devise!

I am far from supposing that such liquors can never be beneficial: all I would infer is, that they are often prejudicial by abuse, that they only become necessary from custom, that they ought to be used with great moderation, and rather as cordials than common drink. Water-drinkers, and those who chiefly live on vegetables, are observed to be more healthful and long-lived than others: In such, the faculties of the body and mind are more strong; their teeth more firm, their breath is healthier, and their eye-sight more perfect, than in those who take fermented liquors and much animal food; they are much less subject to the gout, gravel, colic, and scori; to hysteric and apoplectic, and acute diseases in general.

Quadrupeds, living on flesh, are fierce in their nature, and the exhalation from their body is putrid and offensive; whereas cows, sheep, and other animals which feed on herbage are much more gentle; their breath is sweet, and their excrement almost innocuous. From what has preceded it appears, that much animal food is unwholesome especially to those of bilious habits, in warm moist weather; it will load the body with rancid oils, spoil the sweetness of breath, render the several discharges more offensive, and dispose it to diseases of the putrid kind; which may be best prevented or cured by a vegetable, ascetic diet: a total abstinence from fermented liquors, and the liberal use of pure water, with fresh oranges, or lemon juice.

By Exercise is meant that general, voluntary action of the muscles, which put the body in motion, as well as that passive agitation in a carriage, or on horseback, where it does not properly move itself, but is moved by something else. The first is always preferable to the last, where the strength is sufficient to allow it.

It has been remarked in the section on nervous disorders, that, by the propelling force of the heart, the stream of blood is driven through its several pipes and sinuses; but this great instrument of circulation, though admirably adapted for that purpose, is not sufficient to keep up the circulation in the smallest order of vessels, without the contractive power of the muscles by exercise.

Exercise or bodily motion, increases animal heat by the same law of nature that the electric globe, in whirling around, collects fire; hence it renders the blood more fluid, and promotes its free and equal distribution through the whole vascular system. Many diseases therefore, proceeding from weakness and a defect of circulation, or a cold cause, may by exercise be effectually relieved; such as nervous and hysterical disorders, agues, a dropsey, rheumatism, and pulsy.

As the animal juices are accumulated by nourishment and rest, and consumed by abstinence and motion; it is a circumstance of the highest importance to health to proportion them duly to each other, that the natural balance may be kept up between the solids and fluids.

Moderate Exercise is one of the most sovereign remedies of which we are possessed either in preserving, or restoring health: it increases the natural heat of the body, warms the heart, invigorates its motion, and promotes an equal distribution of blood to all its parts; in consequence of which the body will be more dry, and effectually cool the head between the solar and equinoctial times, it supports the secretions of perspiration, urine, and sweat, strengthens appetite and digestion, renders the body less liable to the influence of severe weather, or to contract putrid diseases; in short, it animates every part of the human system, and also gives activity and vigor to the mind.

We have now seen how intemperance and irregularity of the system may wear out the body; in such as supinely submit to their power, the sun will go down at noon; whilst the rotary to temperance will probably arrive at old age, without diseases or pain. Though he was born with his heart in the right place, a man may live longer, and, in the best health, if he has been carefully trained. The body and mind will both be relieved when the soul and body will rather be unloosed, than forcibly torn asunder.

When his radical moisture is exhausted and gone, as in a lamp deprived of oil, the vital flame will languish, and, at last, must needs be extinguished!

Thus the state of the body and mind have been represented as they really are, not as we might wish to find them. We have endeavored to show their mutual influence, and how they co-operate with each other; what particular condition fits them for health, or tends to introduce diseases; how they are affected by the effect of age; subject to the internal control of turbulent passions; outwardly exposed to the malignant influence of weather, and insensibly pervaded by the prevalence of pernicious habits.

If such are their various effects, and if our manner of living changes our manner of thinking, so as to influence our moral conduct; thence happy they who have been accustomed to early temperance, and the due regulation of their passions, as the basis of rational enjoyment, and source of human virtue.

**MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.**

The annual meeting of this distinguished society was held on Wednesday last, June 1, at the Medical College, in Mason Street. The number of Fellows present, from different parts of the commonwealth, was unusually large. Dr. James Jackson, the Vice-President, took the chair, and opened the meeting a little before eleven o'clock in the morning; after which, Dr. John Gorham read the records and made a statement of the funds of the society, &c. It appears there is now on hand, in cash, 2601 dollars, 83 cents. Perhaps the society was never more prosperous, or more respectable, than at present. The number of Fellows elected, during the past year, is small, but the catalogue of licentiates, whose names were extended from the district societies, shows that a large number of gentlemen have become practitioners in the state, since the last anniversary meeting.

The next business was the election of sixty-six councillors, which were apportioned in the manner of preceding years. The following were elected:

**BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.**

After the election of councillors was completed, and some minor business attended to, by the members, Dr Chaplin, of Cambridge, proposed an amendment of the second section, in the fourth chapter of the by-laws of the society, in relation to the literary qualifications of the candidates for the practice of medicine. The doctor stated the great difficulty experienced by the censors, in agreeing how this law should be understood, in consequence of its being too indefinite. In the section to which he alluded, the law said that the candidate for license "should have such an acquaintance with the Latin language, as was necessary for a medical or surgical education." The question, he said, often arose—How much is necessary? After a short deliberation, the society came to the following resolution, and voted, that in all future examinations, this law or sentence should be understood to mean, "such a knowledge of the Latin language, that the candidate shall be able to read and translate Cicero's selection orations, Virgil's Enniad, the United States Pharmacopoeia, and the medical writings of Celsus." This is now a law, and the censors, therefore, in the several medical districts throughout the state, are required perfunctorily to adhere to it, in all subsequent examinations.

Dr Chaplin also moved that the concluding part of the same section, which said the candidate should also understand "the principles of geometry," should in future be understood to mean that—"the candidate shall be competent to undergo an examination in Legendre, Euclid, and Playfair's geometry—and in philosophy, be able to undergo an examination in Byron's Conversations, or Enfield's Philosophy." This, also, passed unanimously into a law. We will not attempt many remarks upon these two votes, being fully persuaded both will be reconsidered before many years—for there is not a man in the community who can pass a requisite examination in all the different branches of the medical profession, and be a scholar in geometry, a study which must necessarily be neglected in the course of a medical education.

By another vote, proposed by Dr Hayward, of Boston, the councillors were vested with full power to unite with any other literary or scientific body, in jointy erecting a suitable building in this city, in which the Massachusetts Medical Society shall own suitable rooms for the transaction of business. It was stated a proposal had been made by a society in Boston, to that effect.—The third volume of the society's publications, Dr Child's and Dr Thurston's discourses in 1823 and 4, and a catalogue of the library, were then distributed to the fellows.—A committee also reported in favour of authorizing the censor of the Berkshire Medical District, to meet alternately at Lenox, and at the Berkshire Medical Institution, the day preceding the annual commencement at that institution; which was unanimously accepted.

Precisely at one o'clock, John Dixwell, M. D. of Boston, commenced delivering a highly finished oration on the late lamented President of the Society, his Excellency John Brooks, M. D. of Medford. In point of language, this was a well-written production; but it everywhere discovered a kind partiality, which must have been apparent to the audience. The names and characters of most of those members of the society, who have been distinguished in the service of their country, were portrayed in strong and sweet-flowing sentences, but the author appeared studiously to avoid even an allusion to the memory of the late Governor Eastis, who was also a fellow of the society. Surely such neglect could only be the result of downright calculation, as illiberal as it was unnecessary. Doctor Eastis was an able and accomplished Physician, as well as a statesman; but we must look to some other source for the eulogy on a man who has done honor to the profession in which he was once arduously engaged, and who will live in the memory of Americans, when many of his contemporaries will be forgotten.

By this discourse we are informed that Dr Brooks, a native of Medford, where he studied his profession with the celebrated Dr Tufts, under whose tuition he was placed at the age of about fifteen, and with whom he continued till his twenty-first year. He then commenced the practice of medicine in Reading, under favorable auspices, and was soon after married. The war taking place soon after, Dr Brooks was elected captain of a volunteer company, and from this post he was gradually promoted to the command of a regiment, as his military knowledge and accomplishments were made known to his superiors. He was the particular friend of Baron Steuben, and enjoyed the complete confidence of General Washington, who bestowed many marks of affection upon him, in appointing him to several important stations. After the close of the revolutionary struggle, Dr Brooks, by the earnest solicitation of his preceptor, who had now become infirm, entered upon the duties of his profession again, in his native town, where he remained the rest of his useful life, universally beloved by all classes of citizens, both at home and abroad. There is scarcely a literary or benevolent society, of character, in the United States, of which he was not elected a member. The university of Cambridge, many years since, conferred on him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and subsequently those of Doctor of Medicine, and Doctor of Laws. He was seven years, in succession, Governor of this State, and only relinquished the cares and perplexities of public life, when his infirmities would no longer enable him to undergo the fatigues of such laborious duties.—Such is an outline of the character and life of this lamented man, who lived beloved and respected, and died at a good old age, universally regretted.

Dr Dixwell received the thanks of the society for his discourse, and the manuscript will soon be given to the printer. The society then partook of a sumptuous dinner, served up in excellent order, by Mr Fenn, at Concert Hall, where were upwards of two hundred Physicians and Surgeons, comprising a great part of the faculty in the state, beside many distinguished guests.

On the day following, a meeting of the councillors was held at the college, when James Jackson, M. D. of Boston, was unanimously elected President; Abraham Haskell, M. D. of Leominster, Vice President; John Dixwell, M. D. Corresponding Secretary; John Gorham, M. D. Recording Secretary; Jacob Bigelow, M. D. Treasurer; and George Hayward, M. D. Librarian.

We have not yet been able to obtain the list of the newly appointed councillors, but as soon as it is received it shall be published, with the names of those gentlemen who have been elected since the last annual meeting of the society.

DR. ZOLLICKOFFER'S MATERIA MEDICA.

A variety of business has for a long time prevented us from noticing, in a more particular manner, the proposed work on the Materia Medica of the United States, by Dr Zollickoffer, of Maryland. This gentleman is an honorary member of many distinguished colleges, both in Europe and America, and certainly has a claim upon the patronage of the medical public. We believe he has been an industrious collector of facts, and he has also given such evidences of his medical abilities, it would be a reproach to the profession not to encourage his undertaking.

The Materia Medica which the Doctor is preparing, will exclusively embrace the indigenous medicinal vegetable productions of the United States, under a regular systematic form of classification. Surely, this is a book which every practitioner is in need of, and we therefore hope a large edition will be spoken. Dr Thatcher's Dispensatory is valuable; but still, a systematic work, which contains the medicinal articles particularly the growth of the United States, must be both interesting and valuable. The United States Pharmacopoeia is a state affair—anything but what it ought to be, if we have a right view of its merits—which disappointed many more than it pleased; and hence the Materia Medica of Dr Zollickoffer will be the more acceptable. We wish the Doctor success, and recommend his Materia Medica to the favorable notice of American Physicians.

Subscriptions for the above work, (which will be published in August next) will be received at the office of the Boston Medical Intelligencer. Subscribers are requested to forward their names before the close of the present month.

BIOGRAPHY.

DR. TILLOCH, L. L. D.

It is with feelings of deep emotion that we have to announce to our readers the death of Dr Alexander Tillock, the founder and editor of the Philosophical Magazine.

Alexander Tillock was a native of Glasgow, where he was born on the 28th of February, 1757. After receiving that liberal education which in Scotland is so much more accessible than in England, inured from his earliest life to a habit of thinking for himself, possessing an Inquisitive mind, and imbibing an ardent thirst for knowledge, he devoted much of his attention to the art of printing, in which he conceived much improvement remained to be made. As he was not bred a printer himself, he had recourse to Mr Foulis, printer of the University of Glasgow, to whom he applied for types to make an experiment in a new process, and that nothing less than the art of stereotype printing: the experiment succeeded, and Mr Foulis, who was a very ingenious man, became so convinced of its practicability and excellence, that he entered into partnership with him in order to carry it on. They took out patents in both England and Scotland, and printed several small volumes.
from stereotype plates. A few years afterwards Dr Tilloch discovered, that he was but a second inventor, and that the art had been exercised by a Mr Gied of Edinburgh, jeweller, nearly fifty years before. This circumstance, if it did not disgust Dr Tilloch, made him think less of his discovery, and so the machine, and after a severe contest for London, where he became one of the proprietors of the Star evening newspaper. But even the avocations of a daily journal, and the political vortex into which all who are so connected are unavoidably driven, could not divert his mind from his favorite pursuits. He therefore projected and commenced the Philosophical Magazine, which, although there are now several works of a similar description, continues to maintain its high character. To this, the philosophical acquirements of the Editor, who possessed an extensive knowledge of many departments of physical science, were, in a great degree, conducive; and various papers by himself, in the earlier volumes, are by no means the least interesting of their contents. During the last three years, however, the ravages of the disorder which has terminated in his death, disabled him from taking an active part in conducting the work.

Dr Tilloch devoted much of his valuable time to the Steam-engine, and had a large share in suggesting and maturing the improvement on what is called Woolf's engine. The ruling passion may be said, in Dr Tilloch, to have been strong even in death; for he had entered a new patent for a steam-engine only a fortnight before death closed his eyes, and the world lost a man who had devoted a long life to the advancement of science. This melancholy event took place at his house in Barnsby-court, Islington, on the 26th of January last.

In private life, Dr Tilloch was amiable; in conversation, acute, intelligent and communicative; few persons possessed a clearer understanding, or a warmer heart. We have already stated that Dr Tilloch was one of the proprietors of the Star newspaper, and for many years took an active share in its management; for the last five years, however, the editing has been confined to other hands, and the opportunities which a long and protracted sickness enabled him to devote to study were appropriated to science, in the promotion of which he was always ardent and persevering.

Dr Tilloch was a member of several literary and scientific societies, and few individuals had stronger claims to such distinction.

VARIETIES.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF CHESTER COUNTY.—On Thursday the 6th inst, the Medical Society of Chester County held their annual Meeting at New Castle, N. H, when the following gentlemen were chosen officers for the ensuing year, viz: Dr a. Twigg, President; Dr T. Abell, Vice President; Dr E. Gordon Secretary; Dr S. Webber, Treasurer; Dr L. How, E. Carpenter, and J. A. Gregg, Directors; Dr A. Twigg, Librarian; S. Webber, Sub-Librarian. After passing such motions as the propriety of a subscription for the purpose of helping to defray the expense of the Medical Repository, the society adjourned.

A number of medical men, attending the Medical Repository, was left there by Dr Philip Hall, of Chesterfield, (the other orator being prevented from attending by the badness of the weather) and adjourned, having received a letter from Dr Charles G. Adams, and Ebenezer Morse. This Society has lately been reorganized, and promises to be of much public utility, by the punctual attendance of its members, and their endeavors to improve and diffuse medical knowledge, and to raise the character of the profession for intelligence and liberality. Their funds amount to about 600 dollars, and some additional, and after a separate and rigid examination by the Faculty of Medicine, were deemed worthy to be recommended to the boards of Trustees and Overseers of Bowdoin College, for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine. Report of the Professor of Chemistry of the College of New Jersey, on the Practical Experiments of George Washington, in his attempts to prepare and refine the Heap of Water for the purpose of clothing itself in a state of purity, and in the performance of peculiar operations; including the use of the library and attendance upon the hospital, will be 5 dollars. For graduation, each student must have attended all the courses in this institution one session; and, unless he shall have for the last four years a reputable practitioner of medicine and surgery, must also have attended the courses of three Professors, a second session, either in this or some other respectable medical institution.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.—The medical lectures at the Medical School of Maine have recently closed. The following young gentlemen received and defended dissertations connected with the divisions of the course, and as a separate and rigid examination by the Faculty of Medicine, were deemed worthy to be recommended to the boards of Trustees and Overseers of Bowdoin College, for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine. Report of the Professor of Chemistry of the College of New Jersey, on the Practical Experiments of George Washington, in his attempts to prepare and refine the Heap of Water for the purpose of clothing itself in a state of purity, and in the performance of peculiar operations; including the use of the library and attendance upon the hospital, will be 5 dollars. For graduation, each student must have attended all the courses in this institution one session; and, unless he shall have for the last four years a reputable practitioner of medicine and surgery, must also have attended the courses of three Professors, a second session, either in this or some other respectable medical institution.

The lectures for the ensuing session will commence on the third Monday of October, and will be held on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays. The courses will be, on Anatomy, Surgery, and Demonstration Obstetrics, by Jesse Smith, M.D.; Chemistry and Pharmacy, by Elias Slack, A. M.; Materia Medica, and Medical Obstetrics, by John Moorhead, M. D.; and Midwifery, by Dr A. Cobb. The former course will be delivered daily; the price of the tickets 15 dollars. Each of the other courses will comprise at least five lectures a week, and the price 10 dollars. The fee for Matriculation, including the use of the library and attendance upon the hospital, will be 5 dollars. For graduation, each student must have attended all the courses in this institution one session; and, unless he shall have for the last four years a reputable practitioner of medicine and surgery, must also have attended the courses of three Professors, a second session, either in this or some other respectable medical institution.

NEW YORK.—Dr John D. Godman, of Philadelphia, is preparing a splendid work on Natural History for the press. A work on Geology, by Dr Van Rensselaer, of New York, is also in a state of great forwardness. Dr Delafeld, of N. Y, is preparing an edition of the excellent work of Travon on the eye, with notes.

POISONING.—A lady was unfortunately poisoned at Brooklyn (N. Y.) on Saturday, and died in two hours, by aina ayn (presumably, a female, and probably administered by a respectable physician, whose distress can scarcely be described.) A young man near Milford, (Penn.) a few days ago, was bit by a poisonous snake while he was training for exhibition in Philadelphia, and expired in about twenty-four hours.

WALNUT BUSTED.—John Brooks, M. D., late President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and formerly Governor of the state, bequeathed, in his will, the whole of his medical library to the medical society.
OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR. ROGET'S SIXTH LECTURE.

Dr. Roget, in his Sixth Lecture, treated of the Comparative Physiology of the Sense of Taste. He observed, that a natural alliance subsists between this sense and that of Smell, not only with regard to the structure of the organs themselves, but also to the qualities in bodies of which they give information, as well as to the nature of the perceptions which they convey. While it is by their mechanical properties that bodies become the objects of the sense of Touch, it is by their chymical qualities that they are brought within the cognizance of those of Smell and Taste. The chief difference between the one and the other, of which the senses are actuated, is in the nature of the substances on which they are exercised. While the membrane of the nostrils, on which the olfactory nerve is expanded, is adapted to the perception of certain substances in the state of gas, the organ of Taste is fitted for the perception of the qualities of liquids only; but the mode of action appears in both cases to be of a chymical nature; and the presence of moisture in each organ seems to be necessary, in order that those actions may take place.

In all vertebrated animals the organ of Taste is seated in the tongue, for that purpose endowed with a peculiarly modified sensibility. This sense is, in quadrupeds, of the highest importance, and its operation coincides with natural and salutary instincts with regard to food, which are so necessary to their safety. If any similar instincts existed among mankind in a savage state, they have long ago been weakened or effaced by civilization; and the original intentions of Nature have been perverted or superseded by education.

Dr. Roget proceeded to describe the anatomical structure of the tongue, which is developed in very different degrees in different animals. The mode in which the action of its muscular fibres produce the various motions of the tongue, and which has been a frequent subject of controversy among physiologists, was explained. The vascular plexus immediately covering the skin, and through which the numerous papillae observable on the surface are transmitted, was pointed out. Although these papillae are visible to the naked eye, their form cannot well be discovered without the assistance of the microscope. It is to Malpighi that we owe the first accurate description of these parts. They are principally of three kinds, the conical or villous papillae, which are long and slender, and so closely set as to resemble the piles of velvet; the fungiform papillae, which are interspersed among the former, and have somewhat of the shape of mushrooms; and the calyceiform papillae, which are of much larger size than any of the former species, and are arranged on two converging lines at the back of the tongue, near its root. These last are termed, by Professor Sommerring, the conical papillae while he designates the villous papillae by the term filiform; so that there is a discordance among authors as to the names they apply to the different kinds of papille. The respective offices of each of these species of papille were pointed out; and various facts were stated, which prove that the villous papille are those exclusively appropriated to the sense of Taste. The whole organ is very abundantly supplied with nerves; but the actual termination of the nervous filaments in the papille themselves has eluded the researches of the most accurate anatomists. The rete mucosum of the tongue is destitute of the coloring matter which, in other parts of the skin, gives rise to its peculiar hue. Thus the tongue is of the same red color in the Negro as in the European.

Dr. Roget next described the various kinds of secreting apparatus by which fluids are provided for keeping the surface of the tongue moist, and in a state fit for receiving the impressions which occasion Taste; and also for the purpose of dissolving the substances to be tasted, and of diffusing them over a larger portion of the papille of the tongue. No substance in a solid form, and insoluble in those fluids, can be the objects of Taste, except, as in the case of the metals, some gaivance action be excited by their contact with the tongue. An account was next given of the attempts that have been made to establish a classification of Tastes; and proofs given of the assistance which this sense derives from that of Smell. The influence of association and of habit over the pleasure or disgust attendant on the exercise of this sense upon various objects, was discussed. The fondness for spirituous liquors is entirely a factitious taste; for although a relish for them is soon acquired, they are invariably disagreeable to infants or to savages, when first presented to them. Of all the substances, it appears to be the one most naturally agreeable to children; and yet it appears, from the report of Captain Lyon, that the Esquimaux, whom he met with in one of his expeditions, expressed great dislike to the taste of sugar, which was offered to them; and, to his surprise, he found the young children of the tribe equally averse to it.

The modified impressions produced by the application of solid bodies to the palate, throat, and various parts of the inside of the mouth; and the degree in which the organs of taste are affected under these circumstances, these parts can communicate distinct perceptions of Taste, were next considered.

Dr. Roget proceeded to trace the different degrees of development of this sense in the lower animals; beginning with those quadrupeds which exhibit the nearest approach to the human structure, and terminating with the cetenae, in the tongues of which the papillose structure is scarcely discernible. These papille in some species of bats are exceedingly lengthened, so as to resemble the true hairs. In the vampire bat, which a specimen was produced, the sharp and horny point, in which the tongue terminates, enables the animal to inflict a deep wound through the skin, for the purpose of drawing blood, while a person is asleep, without his being awakened by the puncture. In other species of the same genus the papille are hard bodies, resembling filaments of horn. In animals of the rodent kind, the whole tongue is rendered exceedingly rough by numerous sharp prickle, with which the whole of its upper surface is studded; and which, in the larger species, as the lion and the tiger, convert it into the most formidable instrument for tearing the skin and flesh of their victims. These details were pursued in the structure of the tongues of a variety of tribes, such as the dog, hyaena, and civet, among the carnivorous orders; the horse, ox, goat, sheep, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus, among herbivorous animals; as also in the different organs of some kitchen fowls, as the chicken, rabbit, and porcupine; and in the opossum, seal, ant-eater, and manis. The varieties in the form and structure of the tongue in different tribes of birds were next described, and specimens were shown in illustration of these points. The crocodile was believed by Herodotus to have no tongue; but its existence in that animal was proved by a specimen which was exhibited, although it was shown to be exceedingly small, and adherent to the jaws on each side. In other reptiles, as the chameleon, frog, and toad, the tongue is of great length, though concealed in a sheath at the back of the mouth, and is suddenly protruded and retracted by a very curious mechanism, analogous to that affixed to the tongue of the woodpecker. The varieties of this organ in serpents and lizards, and also in the different orders of fishes, were severally described. In fishes, the structure of the tongue is such as scarcely to admit of the exercise of this sense; but some are furnished with organs of a very singular nature, situated on the snout, and which probably more than compensate for the deficiency of Taste. These remarkable organs were first accurately described by Mr. Jacobson, and have been also examined with great care by Dr. Knox. They consist of a multitude of parallel transparent tubes, filled with a gelatinous fluid, and supplied with large branches of nerves. The different opinions respecting the functions they perform, as organs of sense, were stated and discussed; and it was concluded that they probably communicate impressions of an intermediate nature between Touch and Hearing, of the existence of which the actions of the bold and rapacious tribes, of sharks and rays afford some evidence. Lastly, the organs of Taste in the mollusca, and in insects, were noticed. The curious elongation and convolution of the tongue in some of the orders, and its expansion into a proboscis in others, were exhibited. The functions of the palpi placed before the mouth, and which are constantly employed in examining the food before it is introduced into the mouth, were inquired into. But, as Dr. Roget observed, it is obvious, that this tongue is of great length, though concealed in a sheath, which occasions it to extend to beings of such minute size, and which occupy a station so remote from our own in the scale of sensitive existence, we are wan-
dering into regions where we have scarcely any other light to guide us than a vague and fanciful analogy, or the falacious gleams of a too vivid imagination.

EXPERIMENTS ON ACUPUNCTURE.

(From the London Magazine.)

The following is a letter we have just received from a distinguished scientific man at Paris—Acupuncture has been recently often tried and much talked of in this country; but the results of some of the experiments, conducted upon animals and man, have not been stated publicly (we believe) by any medical man of character. Acupuncture, as it is practised in England, is indeed merely empirical. The results of M. Cloquet's experiments, if they are accurately stated, go far to reduce it to a science, and give us a glimpse of an important discovery, viz. the proximate cause of pain in disease. It may be necessary to state, that Mr. Cloquet stands very high in his profession at Paris.

Paris, December 18, 1824.

DEAR SIR—Jules Cloquet, Surg. to St. Louis's Hospital in Paris, has been trying the effects of acupuncture (sticking a needle through a part affected with pain), an old process employed in China and Japan, taken up and had aside at different periods in Europe, and that has never before been properly attended to. The success he has met with has excited general attention, both from the miraculous cures he has performed, and from the singular phenomena that attend the operation, as they are exhibited, not only by the patient, but the operator, and as tending to prove the presence of a fluid analogous to elasticity, which would seem to be the principal agent in the disease and in the cure. He allowed me to make an extract from the paper he read last Monday, to the Academy of Sciences. I shall refrain from any observations on the subject, till it is properly examined; which will be the case when the commission, appointed by the Academy of Sciences, consisting of Amher, Dumeril, and Majendie, make their report.

Mr. Cloquet's experiments have been performed on about two hundred patients, chiefly at St. Louis's Hospital, in the presence of students and physicians. He gives the following account of the effects of the operation.

1. Acupuncture acts immediately and constantly on pain, whenever its cause.

2. Of these pains, some disappear without returning: others re-appear after an uncertain period; but they are always weaker than before the operation, and may be removed again by a fresh puncture.

3. Some pains are only diminished in intensity, without entirely disappearing.

The introduction of the needle is in general slightly painful, especially when the operation is performed for acute pain. At an uncertain time after the introduction of the needle, the patient experiences numbness, stopor in the part affected, or shivering in the direction of the nerve. There is generally formed on the skin about the needle an erythematous mark, of a rose color, more or less vivid, generally round, but sometimes broader on one side of the needle than the other, sometimes longer and extended.

This discoloration of the skin is very vivid, and takes place in some patients immediately after the operation; in others, it is less intense, and does not appear till after four, five, or six minutes, a quarter of an hour, or half an hour. In some patients it does not appear at all—in others it is replaced by a circular swelling which slightly raises the skin; the more extensive the erythematous is, and the sooner it appears, the disappearance of the pain is more sudden and marked. At the end of an uncertain period, from one minute to half an hour, the patient appears to concentrate itself round the needle, the patient feels in the place which is pierced heat or shootings, more or less vivid, similar to those produced by the electric fluid. Sometimes new pains appear unexpectedly in a part distant from the seat of the puncture, but they are often removed immediately, by the introduction of a fresh needle in the part where they appear.

The pain which the patient feels from the needle is continual, or returns at various intervals, which are at first so short that the needle must be withdrawn, until after it has ceased to produce pain. Almost always, when the projecting part of the needle is touched with a metallic conductor, or with the end of the finger moistened, the patient feels in the puncture the most vivid shootings, even from the lightest touch, as long as it is continued. The pain for which the operation is performed subsides in proportion.

If a metallic conductor is applied to the needle, and the other extremity is immersed in a vessel of salt water, the action is much more decided, the pain felt near the needle more violent, and the numbness of the part more considerable. M. Cloquet has been sometimes even obliged to withdraw the conductor for a time to relieve the very acute shooting which the patient feels in the direction of the needle. If the operator keeps his finger on the needle or the conductor, he himself soon feels a slight numbness in the first joint of the phalanges; if he continues the experiment, the numbness extends to the whole of the finger, to a portion of the hand, and even to the fore-arm. In some cases, the writer has felt for hours, the pain, the contractions, very rapid, not painful, in several of the muscles of the face, and of the arm. Every time that the needle is touched, a slight shock is felt that produced by the galvanic battery. These phenomena are in general the more marked, in proportion as the pain of the patient is acute; in some cases they cannot be observed at all. It is not unusual to see the patient experience the general phenomena during and after the acupuncture; often partial or local phenomena accompany the operation; some lose the sensation of cold which they had before in the part affected; others faint away, but this is very rare. Almost all experience a marked improvement, change the expression of their physiognomy completely, and pass in a very short time from the most painful anxiety of countenance, and the most profound depression of spirits, to a state of calm and often even of the most remarkable cheerfulness. The motions and functions of the part affected soon become more or less perfectly restored. When a needle of highly polished steel has been used, it is observed that during the operation it becomes oxidized; or at least the point, to a distance of four or five lines, becomes of a violet blue, brilliant, irradiated as if it had passed through the fire; the portion of it which had been bored in the soft parts is blackened, roughened, dulled, frequently marked with circles, alternately rainbow-tinted, bright, blackish, and dull. The portion which remained out of the flesh is clean and shining; it had not lost any of its polish. These phenomena of the oxidation of the needle are in general the more marked, in proportion to the intensity of the pain and to the length of time the needle has remained in the part. They appear, but less constantly and distinctly, when a needle is plunged into living muscles free from pain; but they are not observed when the experiment is made on the dead body. A puncture, for an instant, or one only continued one or two minutes, produces effects less marked, or none at all. It is not till after some time, varying from two minutes to an hour, that these effects are observed.

When one needle will not produce the effect desired, it is obtained by the application of two or more needles, either together or consecutively. Rheumatism and sciatica should be withdrawn till they have entirely ceased to be painful, and till the pain for which they have been applied has for some time subsided. The duration of the acupuncture should be proportioned to the obstinacy of the disease. M. Cloquet has not yet continued the application of it beyond eight hours, and at this period there remained no trace of inflammatory swelling, in the vicinity of the needle, and sometimes even the erythematous circle has faded or disappeared altogether.

1. In muscular rheumatism, acute and chronic; it has produced very marked effects; the greater part of his patients have recovered after two or three applications. In some cases he has been obliged to operate even as much as five or six times.

2. In rheumatism of the fibres, the same result.

3. In rheumatism of the joints, acute and chronic; white swellings in the joints: the effects less decided: marked relief in some cases; many cases of cure after several applications of the needle.

4. In neuralgia, facial, large and small; and in old sick head aches: the effects were very speedy—most of the patients cured after one or two operations.

5. In deep-seated contusions, recent, or of long standing; many in the parietes of the chest, and the thoracic viscera: effects very speedy—complete abstraction of pain, or at least great diminution of its intensity. Cure after several operations, some were after one.

6. In inflammations, ophthalmia, pleurisy, inflammations of the bowels, of the tecticles, of the skin, chronic pains of all kinds, without intermission, and without cessation of pain, diminution or cessation of inflammatory symptoms.

7. In paralysis, and in mercurial tremblings. No effect at all, unless when these diseases were complicated with pains.

8. In cramps, and muscular contraction, effect in general prompt. The author says that he has practised acupuncture more than five hundred times in almost all parts of the body, without having ever met with a single accident. In fact, the needle, introduced with caution, merely pushes aside the fibres of the tissue which reunite after the needle is extracted. In the greater number of cases not a single drop of blood flowed after the withdrawal of the needle.
CHOLERA INFANTUM.

In our climate this disorder is frequently of a very fatal nature in the season which is now approaching._

From the opportunities we have had of observing this complaint in past seasons, we are fully convinced of the propriety of considering it as a febrile disease, not unlike the bilious remittent of adults; taking this view of its character, instead of prescribing anodyne and astringent mixtures for the purpose of lessening the discharges by the bowels, which are probably the effect of the general excitement of the system occasioned by the heat of the season, and occasionally the additional irritation of teething, we conceive that it is a more rational practice to employ those remedies which are calculated to allay the general febrile excitement, and by that means overcome the excessive irritations of the alimentary canal. Accordingly, what we believe to be the most successful mode of treatment, is in the first place to empty the stomach and bowels by small doses of ipecacuanha and rhubarb. Antimonial medicines and calomel may frequently be prescribed with good effect in this stage of the disease. If the fever continues after the stomach and bowels have been thoroughly evacuated, small doses of ipecacuanha may still be continued with good effect, to preserve a paralyzing action of the skin. Warm bathing may also at this time be made use of to great advantage.—In case that the intestinal irritations continue after the febrile symptoms are removed, the chile, jujube, with the addition of laudanum or paregoric, may be advantageously prescribed. If there is much diarrhoea and tenesmus, with severe gripings, and the discharges are tinged with blood, small injections, composed of starch and laudanum, will be more effectual in relieving the distresses of the patient, than anodynes administered by the stomach; and less likely to disturb the functions of that organ: in other instances astringents may be indicated to restrain the profuse liquid evacuations from the bowels.

Among the means of prevention, we cannot enough recommend the use of flannel worn next the skin; this preserves the action of the vessels on the surface, and while it acts as a non-conductor, it guards the tender infant from the extreme heat and great vicissitudes frequently experienced in the hot months of the year.—Warm bathing, too, at this season, by lessening the effect of excessive heat, and sudden transitions from hot to cold, is extremely useful to all fragile constitutions.

But of all the remedies with which we are acquainted, either to prevent or remove this disease, we know of none so effectual for those in the city who may be attacked by it, as removal to the pure air of the country, particularly near the sea shore, where the atmosphere is not only cooler, but in a peculiar manner has a tendency to restore the appetite and strength of the patient.

SICKNESS CONSEQUENT TO HOT WEATHER.

Such was the extreme heat in the fore part of this month, that complaints of the stomach and bowels have been more frequent, among both adults and children, than we have been accustomed to witness for some months past. Such, too, is the excitement occasioned by an indeterminate temperature of the atmosphere, that many inflammatory diseases, as of the eyes, brain, liver, and intestines, are likely to be induced; and indeed several cases of apoplexy and cholera morbus, have already come to our knowledge. Many severe affections of the bowels have also been brought on by the imprudent use of cold water. The distressing irritation and spasms produced by taking cold water to excess, when the body is thus heated, may frequently be relieved by the free use of ipecacuanha and brandy given internally, and hot spirituous fomentations applied to the bowels; in some cases, death has manifestly been hurried on by too early blood-letting. It should be remembered that there are two stages in these affections, which call for different and even opposite modes of treatment. In the first, as in the cold stage of fever, the vital powers are in a measure suspended, approaching to, and sometimes inducing a complete state of apathy, and immediate death. During this state of insensibility, stimulants, both externally and internally, should be freely administered until the action of the heart is renewed, and the sensibility of the system is restored. Until these objects are attained, the use of the lancet is totally inadmissible. The second stage displays itself by more or less arterial excitement,—occasioning inflammation of the brain, stomach or intestines. The lancet, cupping, division of the temporal artery, cathartics, enemata and blisters, are now called for, to be used with promptness and decision, especially when the patient has too freely indulged in spirituous drinks.

The distressing nausea and retching which is common in those affections, we have found to be the most readily overcome by the application of hot and moist peppermint-leaves to the region of the stomach. They are the most conveniently applied, by putting a sufficient quantity of the leaves between two pieces of cloth, then pouring upon them boiling water, and with something provided for the purpose, quickly pressing sufficiently dry, to apply to the region of the stomach as hot as the patient can bear. We have often found this simple remedy to allay the most violent vomiting, when the stomach rejected opium and sedative medicines of every description.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

The mode of imparting medical instruction by public lectures, has always been esteemed the best method of the improvement of those who have devoted their time and talents to dispute or acquire medical knowledge. If we look into the literary part of history, we shall find that according as a spirit of research and zeal in the cause of science has been cherished, and knowledge acquired, plans to increase the facilities for obtaining a medical education have been systematized and matured by the establishment and support of public institutions. In illustration of this fact it may be observed that the ancients, in the proudest days of their glory, were as much distinguished for their numerous schools, as for the high character of the philosophers who governed them.

The usefulness of schools of medicine is not confined to the benefits which the profession may claim from the talents that they develop, or the learning which they disseminate among the pupils. Such are the habits of industry and constant research which the office of teaching necessarily imposes upon the instructor, that in this way medical schools have led to many important discoveries, and practical improvements.

Public seminaries have always possessed the most efficient means for qualifying persons designed for the practice of our profession; and the connection between philosophy and medicine has always been preserved, so that every nation which has been distinguished for the cultivation of letters and general improvement, has also been celebrated for liberally endowed and well conducted medical institutions.

It may be said, that in this country we possess all the means for the most finished system of medical education that can be obtained in any part of the world. In acquiring a knowledge of diseases of our own country, we enjoy advantages, which, to the American pupil, are superior to those of any foreign schools; for such is the influence of soil, climate, the vicissitudes of seasons, and the state of society, that in this country diseases exhibit, in many respects, a character peculiar to it. In this point the native Physicist has advantages over those who seek their education abroad, and trust to foreign theories in their treatment of diseases here.

American genius has already contributed largely to the improvement of the arts and sciences, and is now doing much to develop obscure principles, and test doubtful theories. It is a number of years since foreigners began to view with surprise, and to envy the rapid advancement of medical science, the bold progress of the art of surgery, and the high rank in society which all in the medical profession in this country seemed destined to attain. Much yet remains for the present and succeeding generations to do. It is for them to discover and establish many improvements in medicine, which are necessary to complete the fabric of a perfect system, for which ancient and modern philosophers and philanthropists have so incessantly labored. As the strength and variety of talents in this country, and the facilities for prosecuting medical inquiries at our public institutions, were never greater than at the present time, we confidently trust that American Physicists will contribute something towards this object.

EFFECTS OF THE CROTON OIL.

Dr Fenoglio, of Turin, has published a series of experiments on the use of the above-mentioned oil; from which he draws the following conclusions:—

1st. That the effects of this oil are to produce a sense of burning in the fauces, slight pains in the belly, and a general sense of fatigue.

2d. That it may be looked upon as an antiphlogistic of no ordinary powers; but not to be administered where there exists any inflammatory action of the digestive canal.

3d. That it does not possess any diuretic property.

4th. That, generally speaking, in the doses usually administered, it is powerfully drastic.

5th. That, in doses of a drop, it does not produce the violent effects that have been by some attributed to it.

6th. That, where more numerous evacuations have been procured, other purgatives, or glysters, have assisted its action.

7th. That, given in the form of pill, the effect upon the mouth and fauces is avoided.

8th. That it should not be given in solution, as it appears thereby to be imperfect in its action.

So far Dr Fenoglio's experience extends. We have, immediately following, the result of experiments made in the clinical department of the University of Padua, communicated to us by Pietro Benvenuti, and which appear more in conformity with the experience of the English practitioners. The conclusions this latter gentleman has arrived at are the following:

1st. That the Croton oil is the most violent of all drastic purgatives at present known.
power to make valuable additions, there can be little doubt that in a short time a cabinet will be formed consisting of such a variety as will do honor to the medicinal department of the State. With a view of exciting a more general interest in the objects for which this Society was formed, and to concentrate the efforts of any individuals who might have dispositions friendly to the institution, it was deemed advisable to make a more public appeal than had hitherto been done in its behalf. An address was accordingly pronounced, at the request of the Society, by Dr. Fuge on Friday evening last, at the Court House in this town, which we were pleased to observe, was attended by a highly intelligent and interesting audience. The locality, however, by employing water of various lengths up to 840 feet, and measuring the energy of the electric action by the deflection produced in a magnetic needle, has found that the intensity diminishes very rapidly as the increase of the distance. Hence the idea of constructing electrical telegraphs is quite chimerical. He found, also, that the effect was greater with a wire of a certain size than with one smaller, yet that nothing was gained by increasing the diameter of the wire, beyond a given limit.

CHARACTER OF LINNEUS.

This celebrated naturalist was in his person rather below the middle size; the features of his countenance were not regularly handsome, but his eye was full of fire, and beamed with intelligence—possessed of passions that were violent and easily excited; he was nevertheless an agreeable companion; his conversation was gay, brilliant, and facetious, and his warmest paradoxes of anger lasted but for a moment—his ambition of, and excellence in, science was unbounded; no exertions, no labor in its cause, were either tedious or wearisome to him. In summer he allowed himself but five, and in winter nine hours of sleep. He has been charged with parsimony, and the manner of his living, which was plain and frugal, has been produced as an evidence of it; but his beneficence in refusing acceptance of any renumeration for his lectures to indigent students—his charity to the necessitous, and his liberality of expense in promoting the cause of science, were not consistent with an avaricious disposition. He entertained the greatest reverence for the Deity, and in his lectures delighted to expatiate on the greatness and excellence of his attributes, thereby instilling a similar spirit into the breasts of his pupils. His memory was uncommonly vigorous in his youth, but owing perhaps to his very intent and earnest application, it began to fail at the age of fifty. His character is elegantly summed up by Condorcet in his panegyric, "tender to his friends, amiable and bitheslike in familiar converse, noble with the great, plain and good natured to his inferiors, Linnaeus never purchased by baseness the privilege of making others feel the humiliating weight of pride, and was the less jealous of affecting a precocious prerogative, than he was confident of his real greatness."—New York American.

MINERALS.

A society has been established in Portland for about four years past for the purpose of giving facilities to those who have a taste for this interesting branch of physical science, and though, as yet, few in numbers and limited in means, they have done much to give advancement to their favorite object. From small beginnings—a respectable collection of specimens has been already gathered, and if suitable encouragement is afforded to those who may have it in their
ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR. ROGET'S SEVENTH LECTURE.

Dr. Roget proceeded, in his Seventh Lecture, to treat of the Comparative Physiology of the senses of Smell and Hearing. The exciting causes of Smell, he observed, are effluvia arising from certain volatile bodies, and conveyed into the nostrils by the air. In some cases, the whole substance is convertible into gas; in others, the odoriferous matter is of a different nature from the rest of the body, and may be obtained in a solid state: but the extraordinary tenacity and levity of the odoriferous particles, in a number of instances, render it impossible to appreciate them by any instruments which art or science has devised. They afford striking illustrations of the prodigious divisibility of matter. The most copious exhalations from a few grains of musk or assafetida will be continually emitted, even for many years, without occasioning the least perceptible loss of weight.

The organs which have been provided for the purpose of receiving impressions from the subtle effluvia are, in most cases, situated at the entrance of the respiratory passages. In terrestrial animals, advantage is taken of the necessity of the function of Respiration; and the structure acquired for this function is made subservient to the additional purpose of Smell. In aquatic animals, on the other hand, separate organs are provided especially for this sense.

The cavity of the nostrils is always double in vertebrated animals of the former class, being divided by a middle partition; and the whole of its internal surface is lined by a soft membrane, called the Schneiderian membrane, which is constantly preserved in a state of moisture, and upon which the ultimate ramifications of the olfactory nerves are distributed. These nerves are the first that proceed from the basis of the brain: and their relative magnitude in different tribes of animals, affords an indication of the degree in which this sense is exercised. The numerous blood vessels which supply the membrane also contribute to the sensibility of the organ. Several thin and delicate bones project into the cavity of the nostrils, which are evidently intended to arrest the odoriferous effluvia in their passage, and to increase the surface of membranes exposed to their action. In man, they consist of three pairs of convoluted bones, which leave three channels for the passage of the air. Several cavities in the neighboring bones also communicate with those of the nostrils, and have been supposed to be subservient to the sense of smell; but later anatomists have rejected this opinion; and they are now believed to be useful principally in exercising tone and modulation to the voice.

Dr. Roget then entered into a review of the principal varieties which the sense of smell and quadrupeds exhibit in the structure of these different parts of the organs of Smell. He noticed, in particular, the great features of distinction between the carnivorous species, and those which feed on vegetables, with regard to the relative magnitude of the olfactory nerves, the degree of development of the conibrum lamella, ethmoid processes, and upper and lower turbinate bones; and the difference of form exhibited by these several parts. The spiral or convoluted forms of these bones, in herbivorous quadrupeds, were contrasted with their lamellar structure and ramified distribution in the purely carnivorous. These diversities were exemplified in the comparative anatomy of the horse, sheep, goat, deer, and other ruminants; the hedge-hog, mole; the weasel tribe, the dog, cat, and other species of the same genus. The internal organ of Smell in the hog, was shown to be very analogous to that of man, in point of simplicity of structure; while, on the other hand, the greatest degree of complexity is displayed in the prodigiously expanded plates of the inner bones of the nostrils of the seal. This animal has the faculties of closing the oriifice of the nostril at pleasure. Herbivorous animals distinguish vegetable odors with greater accuracy than they do the odors arising from animal substances; and the reverse is observed with regard to quadrupeds whose habits are decidedly carnivorous. On the whole, it may be concluded that in man the structure as well as functions of the organs of Smell, are more allied to those of the mammals which feed on vegetables, than to those which subsist on animal substances.

Similar distinctions, Dr. Roget showed, may be established among the different tribes of birds. The olfactory nerves are larger, and the nasal bones more developed in birds of prey than in granivorous birds. In the latter, indeed, they are in general exceedingly small, and their functions imperfectly performed. As the food natural to these tribes has but little that may be swallowed, we often find that they swallow by mistake substances of a very different nature, which resemble it. Thus poultry have been known to swallow the whole contents of a pot of white paint, which they mistook for their usual food of barley meal and water.

Fishles appear to be sensible of odorous emanations diffused through the water which surround them; and they exercise the sense of Smell by compressing the water impregnated with these particles against their nostrils. The nostrils in this class of animals have no connection with the respiratory passages, but are covered by cavities situated on each side of the mouth, opening externally, but having no other outlet. These external openings appear double on each side, from their being divided by a valvar moveable membrane thrown across the aperture; behind which is found a very elegantly plated membrane, disposed in semicircular folds, and having the olfactory nerves distributed on its surface. The opinion advanced by Ducler, that the perceptions which fishes have of odorous particles, should rather be ascribed under those of Taste than of Smell, in consequence of their affecting the organ in a liquid, instead of a gaseous form, was discussed.

The mode in which odorous effluvia produce their impressions on the organ, was next made the subject of inquiry; and various facts stated in support of the conclusion that it was in consequence of a chymical action upon the expansion of the olfactory nerve; or rather that this action was excited through the medium of the fluid, with which the nerves are surrounded, and constantly preserved in a state of moisture. A number of proofs were adduced that all animal and vegetable bodies are continually sending off very subtle effluvia, which our organs are not sufficiently acute to perceive, unless when they are much concentrated, but of the existence of which the actions of the inferior animals furnish abundant evidence. To predaceous animals it is a sense of the greatest importance, and appears in different instances, to guide them from great distances in the discovery and pursuit of their prey.

Dr. Roget proceeded to give an account of the Physiology of the sense of Hearing; by which animals are made sensible of the minute vibrations of the particles of elastic substances. The manner in which these vibrations are produced, and the mode by which, in conformity with the mechanical laws which regulate the phenomena of elastic bodies, they are propagated through the air, or other surrounding medium, till they are received by the ear, were explained and illustrated. The progress of the sonorous undulations was then followed, in their concentration by the sinuositics of the external organ, and in their transmission through the meatus externus, till they impinge upon the membrane of the ear-drum, by which that passage is closed. The anatomy of the internal parts of this curious and intricate organ was described; preparations of all the parts were exhibited, and all the descriptions rendered intelligible by drawings, on a scale of sufficient magnitude to allow of their being distinctly seen at a distance. As it would be impossible, without similar assistance, to convey any satisfactory ideas of the form and arrangement of these minute parts, we shall not attempt to engage in the details connected with this subject, which were stated by the lecturer; and shall decline entering into the labyrinth, as it is so aptly termed, of the internal ear, unprovided with the only clue which could conduct us safely through its windings. We shall only remark, that it is the cochlea, with its spiral passages, which compose the labyrinth of the ear, that the aerial vibrations, received through the tympanum, or ear-drum, produce corresponding undulations in the fluid which fills these passages; and that these undulations become divided into two series, each conducted through separate spiral channels in the cochlea, till they are made to unite, and produce more concentrated impressions on the delicate filaments of the auditory nerve, which are expanded to receive them.

From the structure and anatomy of the ear in man, Dr. Roget descended to the consideration of the corresponding organs in the inferior animals. These present a very considerable diversity, both in the form and degree of complication of their parts, and their adaptation to different
modes and pursuits of life. After surveying these differences in terrestrial animals, he proceeded to the review of this function in the aquatic tribes; water being the medium of sound to the latter, as air is to the former. Experiments were stated, from which it appears that water conveys sounds with more intensity, and to greater distances, than air. This fact, together with that of hard and solid bodies being also good conductors of sound, are consequences of the laws of corpuscular action, relating to the compressibility and elasticity of the particles of these bodies within a certain limited range. We find, accordingly, that fishes are exceedingly alive to impressions of sound; and that although there is no external passage for receiving the undulations of the water by which sounds are propagated, the internal organ is considerably developed, and a complete apparatus provided for the exercise of this sense.

This Lecture was concluded by an account of the successive addition of parts which may be traced in the comparative anatomy of the organs of hearing, in following the order of gradation from the crustacea, through the different tribes of fishes and of reptiles, to the more complicated structures that are met with among birds and mammals.

From Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

BECK AND DUNLOP ON MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.*

About a year ago, we solicited the attention of our readers, more especially of those among them who are liable to be called upon to serve as jurymen in criminal trials, to the elaborate work on medical jurisprudence then published by Messrs Paris and Fonblanque of London. We have now, if we wish to qualify, in any measure, the commendation we at the time bestowed on that work, at the same time we cannot but express our surprise that the authors should not, ere now, have found it their interest to produce an edition of it relented of that large mass of materials interesting only to the medical profession, and, indeed, only to those members of the profession who practise in London, which we saw, and foretold, must operate as a serious dead weight against the circulation of their work throughout the empire at large. The privileges and powers of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in London are, no doubt, important matters; but nobody could deny that they were quite absurdly introduced and discussed, and that too at most enormous length, in a book professing to be compiled for the benefit of all lawyers, all medical men, and, above all, of all jurymen.

We have, therefore, very considerable pleasure in making known to our readers the appearance of another work on the same science, which contains quite as much useful matter as that of Paris and Fonblanque, which contains none of the uncalled-for additions that disfigured and embittered theirs, and which may be had for about one half of its price. This is the American treatise of Dr Beck of New York, as recently re-published in London by Mr William Dunlop, the same gentleman whose excellent lectures on medical jurisprudence attracted so large a share of public attention, last year, in Edinburgh.

Dr Andrew Duncan, junior, has given an elaborate and scientific review of the original work of Beck, in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal of July 1824, and which concludes in these words: "Under the unassuming title of Elements of Medical Jurisprudence, Dr Beck has presented us with a comprehensive system, which embraces almost every valuable fact or doctrine relating to it. Each of its diversified departments has been investigated so minutely, that few cases can occur in practice, in which it will be necessary to seek elsewhere for further information." We shall not attempt to add anything to this eulogy of so competent a judge, in so far as the original work is concerned. But we must remark, that Mr Dunlop has performed an invaluable service to the public, in making this work accessible to himself, and so as to confer great additional value on the English edition of Dr Beck's book, as compared with the American one. Being in correspondence with his author, he has accurately compiled largely by his communications and corrections, down even to the last page of his appendix: but this is not the chief matter. Mr Dunlop having served long, and with much distinction in both hemispheres, as a surgeon in our army, and having, moreover, obtained access to the private journals kept by the distinguished lawyer who now occupies one of the Chief Justiciary Court in Scotland, has, from these two sources of information, been enabled to increase to a prodigious extent the value of the American book he had undertaken to edit. He has added, in the shape of notes, a great number of most curious Scotch cases, altogether unknown to Messrs Paris and Fonblanque; and these, of course, reported in a style of the most perfect, and, indeed, authoritative accuracy. The results of his own military practice are communicated in the same shape: these often throw new and important light on the topics under discussion, so as to render them extremely valuable to professional readers; and they are always presented in a style so natural and original, that, we are quite sure, they must add greatly to the attractiveness of the book among the great mass of readers. It is really quite delightful to come upon one of those picturesque anecdotes, detailed with all the vigour and spirit of the Quorum parsi magnae feeling, in the midst of merely scientific details.

Paris and Fonblanque's book is in three octavo volumes. The present work is not printed in such grand style, nor on half so fine paper; but it contains (the English edition we mean) everything really and particularly useful in the other, in one business-like, closely printed, thick octavo of 640 pages, at one half of the price. We are sure we have said quite enough to fix some portion of public attention on the book, and this is all we wish to do. The ignorant state in which Jurymen continually come to the consideration of points of medical evidence on criminal trials, is truly lamentable. In regard to men of any habits of reading, it is really sinful; and certainly not the less so, because the works, which they ought to read and master, happen to be about the most interesting and amusing books in the whole world. The work of Beck and Dunlop is unquestionably one of the most interesting that even the merest literary loungers could take up to dissipate the ennui of the sofa. We know of no romances half so interesting as the real "tales of terror" to be found scattered over these pages; and not a few of these, being American and Scotch, have never before made their appearance, in any shape at all, accessible to the general reader.

There is one remark more which we must make. In this book all sorts of information in regard to the treatment of persons wounded, poisoned, half-strangled, half drowned, &c. are to be found; and when we think of the innumerable instances every day occurring, in which so much benefit might be derived from the possession of this kind of knowledge, we really cannot hesitate about saying that the work before us ought to take its place upon the shelf of the country gentleman's and farmer's library, especially in remote and wild parts of the country, even if there were no chance of the possessor being called upon to prepare himself for any duties but strictly domestic ones. We have little doubt that a book so full of facts and sense, and got up with such an honourable disdain of those fashionable arts, which never ought to have any admission where facts and sense are the matters in hand, must soon command general attention; and we certainly have no doubt at all, that, if it commands attention, it will retain favour.

A great many of our first medical writers have been in the way; and assuredly Mr Dunlop displays a noble share of this characteristic humour, as well as the higher qualities with which that has so often been combined. His notes are, many of them, quite delicious. One wishes there were enough of them to make a book by themselves. But all this, perhaps, in due time.

HOOPING COUGH.

The plan of treatment in which this disease has proved most beneficent, consists in the regulation of the air which the patient breathes, and the food which he takes, as well as in the proper administration of medicines. If the disease occur in summer, the patient may be permitted to take exercise in the open air, when the wind is not easterly; but if in winter, he should be confined to one or more rooms, the temperature of which should be preserved, as nearly as possible, between 60 deg. and 65 deg., or at summer heat. The food should be of a light and demulcent kind, and, therefore, confined to vegetables, light puddings, and milk; a strict adherence to which is, in our opinion, a most important point in the management of the disease. With regard to medicine, nothing so soon allays the spasmodic violence of the cough as small doses of Prussic Acid combined with carbonate of Potash, and the extract of Belladonna, given in a cupful of the common Almond Emulsion, sweetened with the Syrup of Tofo. When the patient, however, is very young, and the phlegm is swallowed instead of being expectorated during the cough, small doses of Ipecacuanha Wormwood may be substituted for the Prussic Acid; and the Belladonna, instead of being given internally, may be united with Bur-
PLICA POLONICA.

A very interesting paper has lately been read by M. Virey before the Royal Academy of Medicine, in the nature and remedy of this disease, an abstract of which we shall premise by the following particulars taken from the Lancet, vol. iv. No. 6. -Cracow may be considered the centre of that singular and revolting disease, the zopfe or plica polonica, and derives its name from the most prominent symptom, the entangling the hair into a confused mass. The most extraordinary part of the disease is its action on the hair; the individual hairs begin to swell at the root, and to exude a fat slimy substance, frequently mixed with suppurrated matter, which is the most noisome feature in the malady; their growth is at the same time more rapid, and their sensibility greater than in their healthy state. When the disease has reached a high degree of malignity, not only whole masses of the hair, but even single hairs, will bleach if cut off, and that too throughout their whole length, as well as at the root. The hairs growing rapidly amidst the corrupted mass, twist themselves together inextricably, and are at last plaited into a confused, clothed, disgusting-looking mass. Very frequently, they form themselves into a number of separate masses like ropes; and there is an instance of such a zopfe (tail) growing to the length of fourteen feet on a lady's head, before it could be safely cut off. Sometimes it assumes other forms, which medical men have distinguished by special names; such as, the hair's nest plica, the urbane plica, the medusa-head plica, the long-tailed plica, the club-shaped plica, &c. After the hair has continued to grow thus tangled and noisome for a period, which is in no case fixed, it gradually becomes dry, healthy hairs begin to grow up under the plica, and at last, "push it from the stool." In the process of suppurating, however, it unites itself so readily with the new hairs, that if not cut off at this stage, it continues hanging for years, an entirely foreign appendage to the head. But till the disease has run its full course, and begun to subside of itself to decay, any attempt to cut the hair is attended with the utmost danger, producing convulsions, cramps, distortions of the limbs, frequently death, and sometimes madness. Yet for a long time this was the first step on the approach of the disease; its victims were naturally anxious to rid themselves of this disgusting symptom, and they uniformly described the melancholy effects which followed, not to the removal of the hair, but to the internal malady. Medical men had not then learned that this was the natural outlet of the disorder."

Every one (observes M. Virey,) knows that this was for a long time considered to be a peculiar disease, and was attributed to a specific virus. Many physicians have placed it after syphilis among the diseases most destructive to the human race; by some it was supposed to be contagious and epidemic. It appears to have been first brought into Poland by the Mongol Tartars about the close of the thirteenth century. It is only within a few years that the opinion of Davidson, suggested in the seventeenth century, has been renewed, that plica is only the result of improper treatment and negligence. MM. Moyer, Larrey, and Wolff, have clearly shown that the hair being covered with thick bonnet of skin, as is the case among the people directly affected, is principally produced by the state of the hair, from the great accumulation of heat. Again there is the perspiration and every species of filth thrown off from the epidermis, which accumulating by negligence, so binds the hair together, that as it grows it becomes twisted, and forms a thick grasy mass, which increases itself enormously. The plica appears to be a disease which the barbers may cure.

According to the remark of M. Des Genettes it seldom attacks any other than the most filthy, negligent, and miserable individuals. The frequent use of the vapor bath by the Russians has also produced the appearance of this disease amongst them. It is not only in wild countries, as was formerly thought, that this disease shows itself, but it has been observed in France and Italy, and is even common in tropical climates. The hair grows the longest, and the plica appears in its most perfect form, among the Fakrys of the East Indies. Dillon remarked this in the seventeenth century, but his account was not much attended to till it was confirmed by more modern travellers. These facts show that plica throughout the globe is only the result of negligence and inattention, aided by the heat, the accumulation of sweat, &c. —Archives Generales.

ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS.

In consequence of the great damages to which we have heretofore been subject, at this season of the year by the operation of various insects which prey upon anatomical preparations, we are induced to call the attention of those gentlemen who may possess cabinets or select preparations of the human body, to the best way of preserving them. Another consideration is, the extreme difficulty which is now experienced in obtaining them, renders it doubly necessary to be vigilant in saving what has, perhaps, cost whole weeks of anxiety and labor to collect. In all wax injected preparations, in very warm weather, the vessels are apt to contract, and if the wax be too soft, ruptures its sheath and exudes, perhaps in a hundred different places. To prevent this, where the wax appears to be in such a condition, there is nothing better than frequently—for instance, twice a week—washing it in cold water. A dark room is decidedly preferable to a high story, or a low, humid apartment; and another advantage arises from the fact, that insects rarely make the same devastation in a dark, that they do in a mildly light room. The necessity of a dry store room must be apparent. All preparations, whether corroded, injected, or made to display the muscles, should be thoroughly varnished and dried. If insects then deposit their eggs, a cold water washing with a soft brush, cleanses them completely, and by long experience we are justified in saying, that with the proper spirit or the spurious solutions of corrosive sublimate. Modify this last article in whatever way it has been recommended, and it will invariably injure the texture or color of the fibre to which it is applied. A solution of ales is another powerful enemy to insects, and may be resorted to with the happiest effects to dislodge them from deep seated parts, between arteries and muscles.

It is a very wrong practice to give preparations frequent varnishings,—because it is rarely put on with the requisite nicety; some minute parts may be so loaded with it, that they appear twice as large as natural, and thus the student, as well as the operator is liable to be greatly deceived in consulting them. We recollect, the distinguished Cower once made a blunder which was one of the causes of the death of a patient, by making a mistake of this kind, by marking the situation of parts on a daubed preparation, a few minutes before an important operation.

With regard to wet preparations, although pure distilled spirit seems to be amply sufficient for their preservation, every one must have remarked the loathsome smell which arises from them on taking them from the liquid. To prevent this, they ought to be thoroughly washed, at least, once a year, in pure cold water, and the spirit changed, otherwise they become not only noxious, but of the nature of leather, which in a great measure destroys their value. Half spirit and half water, is equally as good, as clear spirit, and withal, much more economical.

In the various collections of anatomical preparations which we have visited, we notice new peculiarities in relation to the method resorted to for preservation, but our own personal experience, and we speak altogether from this, fully demonstrates the utility of the plan pointed out.

Such is the value of a successfully injected preparation, that no time is thrown away in preserving it, but the moment it is carelessly neglected, it ceases to be valuable, because the important practical parts are either obliterated by vermin, or distorted from the true position in which nature originally placed them.

This was one of the most formidable and interesting operations which has been performed by any Surgeon in the New-England States. As we were present, and witnessed the whole process, we feel desirous to relate all the particulars of the case; in making this report, however, in consequence of being strangers in the place, we regret the impossibility of remembering the names of all those professional gentlemen who assisted the operator with their counsel and attendance.

The patient was Spencer Hubbard, a robust, athletic, laboring man, forty years of age, a resident of Deerfield, Mass. About five weeks before the operation, he perceived a small, unmoveable, bony sort of a tumor, about equidistant from the chin and angle of the lower jaw, which was supposed to proceed from some affection of the teeth. The rapidity of its growth, from the time it was first discovered, induced the patient to consult Mr. William, an eminent Surgeon, in that vicinity, who, on his examination, discovered the true nature of the disease, and although he resorted to every possible measure to dispel it, his only hope of relieving Mr Hubbard was by an operation. Thus, in the short space of five weeks, from a small tubercle, on the outside of the jaw, just under the integuments, it increased to an alarming size, involving the jaw bone, for two inches in length, protruding into the mouth upon one side, distending the cheek, and distorting the countenance on the others. The teeth became loose, and a discharge commenced from the body of the tumor corroding and extremely fastid. Dr. Williams now advised an operation, but being himself ill health, despatched a messenger to Pittsfield, for Professor Batchelder.

On Thursday, June 16th, all the principal physicians in the county were assembled at the patient's house, and in a general consultation, not only agreed unanimously, that an operation was necessary, but that it was also advisable to pass a ligature round the carotid artery. The house being small and a great number of professional persons and students having come together, who were particularly anxious to have a full view of the operation, a ladder was erected on a green across the way, where the patient was placed upon the table, and fanned by gentle and refreshing breezes, during the whole time. It is scarcely necessary to make many remarks upon this part, or preparatory operation; it is sufficient to say, that with the loss of little blood, the right carotid artery was drawn upon from between the muscles, expeditiously, and with little pain to the patient, tied with a strong ligature. The wound being neatly closed with adhesive straps, Mr. Hubbard walked back to the house. During the night, he had but little pain,—kept some, and had a good pulse. The next day, at twelve o'clock, June 17th, the faculty having again assembled, and the patient again placed upon the table, the operator made an incision from the angle of the mouth, to the lobe of the ear, and another, vertically, from the centre of the under lip, down to the pomum adami. By a delicate dissection, in which the Professor exhibited his thorough acquaintance with surgical anatomy, the tumor was exposed. There was not more than two gills of blood lost, through the whole operation, and this may be computed to the excellent precaution of securing the carotid on the preceding day.

By one of Hey's saws, the jaw was then taken off, at the angle and at the right mental foramen,—which means, about two inches in length of the jaw bone, surrounded by the tumor, was readily extracted. The tumor, on examination, proved to be of a cartilaginous consistence,—approximating to bone, familiarly known to Surgeons by the name of osteo sarcoma tumors, measuring seven inches in circumference, in one direction, and six inches in the other. The lips of the wound were nextly brought together by adhesive bands, and the patient again conveyed to his bed.

Although the pain of the operation was at times, excruciating, his strength was unimpaired, and his pulse full and strong. He was occasionally permitted to rise up to rest and survey the concomitance of spectators, which his curiosity prompted him to notice. Whether sitting up or submitting to the knife, he kept up an incessant talking, which no persuasion could silence, and gave such frequent exhibitions of wit and sarcasm, as to draw smiles from those who were the most deeply interested in his welfare and sympathized the most in his sufferings.

We hear from day to day of the comfortable situation of Mr Hubbard, and have no apprehensions of an unfavorable result. In ten days from the operation, the external wound will probably be entirely healed and in the course of five or six weeks, with ordinary success, a new jaw bone of equal strength and magnitude of the portion which was removed, will undoubtedly be generated.

Professor Batchelder is certainly an operator of the first order, who, has united in his character, a discriminating mind,—science combined with thorough surgical experience, and a hand that never trembles.

VARIETIES.

REMARKABLE CASE OF CARCINOMA OF THE BRAIN.

We have recently examined a remarkable case of cerebral carcinoma, on the head of a Mrs. R. of Montauk, Mass. When a child, by accident, she had the scalp scalped, nearly over the fontanelle, which has always remained somewhat inflamed,—till within two years; when the osa parietalia became cavernous, about the middle of the sagittal suture, and a tumor protruded, of small dimensions. The diameter of the orifice was much greater than the tumor itself, until the tumor of the brain is about eighteen inches. It resembles, somewhat, in appearance, a placenta, or a fresh fungus, denominated Botule Lucidus,—being thick in the centre, and thin at the outside. One half of the tumor is cartilaginous, and has a sinus into the substance of the brain. The woman is 40 years of age; she has not been the mother of several children, and is now advanced six mouths in pregnancy. The case is entirely hopeless, and has been so from the moment it burst through the skull. There has been great pain in the head for many years, and when we visited her, June 17th, she was totally insensible, and apparently in the last stage of life.

CANCEROUS ULCER OF THE EYE.—In passing through a small town on Connecticut River, the other day, we were consulted by an aged man, laboring under the dreadful effects of a cancerous ulcer of the eye. This had been of thirty years standing. The whole orbit of the left eye is completely eaten out; the orbicular process of the superior and inferior orbit are entirely eaten away, the bone is eaten through, and some portion of the periphereal process of the os ethmoides are destroyed, and the disease is still progressing with steady, but horrid devastation. His appetite is tolerable, and he is walking about. Although the unfortunate gentleman, now in his seventieth year, is suffering so much, and is literally gnawed away from day to day by a formidable and insidious disease, he exhibited some hopes of recovery. We have been informed this man has made himself too free, in his youth, with cider and spirituous liquors. This should act as a warming to all tipplers, who, from the indulgence of such pernicious habits, are equally liable to the same cruel and unlamenting malady.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—The Lancet informs us of an important medical discovery in Germany. Extract of belladonna [deadly night shade] has been generally found to be the only persons insusceptible of the fever in places where it prevails. Medical men who have been in various parts of Germany, chiefly by giving the medicine to a number of children as soon as the disease appeared in the place where they lived, in nearly all the cases detailed in thirteen different reports, the children, although purposely allowed to mix with the infected persons, wholly escaped the fever; and in a few cases, the fever was cured only in a very mild form. The quantity to be given of the extract is a twentieth part of a grain, morning and evening.

QUACKERY.—On Tuesday, the 23d April, an inquest was held on the body of the late Lupton, of Colne, England; it appeared from the evidence adduced upon the inquest, that he deceased had for a long time been afflicted with the above symptoms, and on Sunday morning the 20th, rose earlier than usual for the purpose of taking certain medicines to destroy them, which he had received from a quack doctor residing at Colne. About one o'clock, having previously taken the medicine, he returned home, and consulted his wife, who made some cruel. Medical assistance was called in, but gradually but rapidly grew worse, and expired about two o'clock in the afternoon, leaving a wife and two children destitute. On the opening of the mouth, a quantity of arsenic was found upon the stomach. The jury returned a verdict of—mortal, against Robert Nuttall, from whom the deceased had obtained the medicine; he was committed by the coroner's warrant to take his trial at the next Lancaster assizes.

SHOCKING WOUND.—A cow, in the western part of this state, a short time since, thrust one of her horns into the head of a man who was walking before the door, and tore open the whole cheek, from the angle of the mouth to the ear. Prompt surgical aid was obtained, and the wound secured, which was healing by the first intention; in a week or two the little sufferer will be able to discontinue the dressing.

somname.

BROCKTON MEDICAL SCHOOL.—The medical lectures in the United States are usually held back at Burlington, as herefore, on the second Wednesday in September, and continue twelve weeks. The following candidates have been admitted to this institution, who, after passing the requisite examinations, have been attached to this institution, with the departments in which they will respectively give instruction. Henry S. Waterhouse, M. D. Surgeon and Medical Observer of the University. George J. Benedict, M. D. Materia Medica, Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry. John Bell, M. D. Anatomy and Physiology, William Sweeters, M. D. Theory and Practice of Physic and Materia Medica.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending June 25th; from the Health-Office Returns.

June 18th.—Owen Owens, 4; Thomas Stevens, 3 days. 19th.—John F. Noble, 30; Simpson Austin, 14 years. 20th.—John Guerin, 57; William Baron, 90; Ephraim Kidder, 32; Ellen C. Herring, 1 week. 22d.—Martha Osborn, 33. 23d.—Adah Warner, 10 years. 25th.—Thomas G. Shackford, 30; Oliver Ibbot, 29. 27th.—Jeremiah P. Carlisle; Lydia Blake, 75; Mihabla M. Belcher, 13; Joanna Fawley, 12 years. 27th.—Ellen Fox, 12 years. 28th.—Elizabeth Ann Warten, 6 years. 29th.—Joseph, 1; Droopy, 1; Master, 1; Consumption, 1; Fis., 1; Mortification, 1; Okker Rash, 1; Throat Distemper, 1; Stillborn, 1; Intemperance, 1; Accidental, 1; Hooping-Cough, 1; Inflammation of the Brain, 1.

DIED.—At Middleton, Dr. John Osborn, aged 87. Near Philadelphia, Dr. C. Hakeem, lately known by the name of Sylvan Gardner, (Rain Water Doctor).
OBSERVATIONS.

CHOLERA INFANTUM.

By D. Francis Condie, M. D.

Read before the Philadelphia Medical Society.

(Continued from page 34.)

TREATMENT.

Removal to the country.—In proceeding to a consideration of the treatment of cholera infantum, it will be proper to premise, that there is but little chance of effecting a permanent cure, so long as the patient remains exposed to the causes which have produced the disease; and hence it becomes our duty to recommend and urge his immediate removal, particularly from the confined streets of the metropolis, to a healthy situation in the country, where he may obtain all the benefits of a purer and colder atmosphere. This of itself, where the disease has been recent, is sufficient to put a stop to the symptoms, and quickly to restore the patient to health. It is extremely agreeable, says Dr. Rush, "to see the little sufferers revive as soon as they escape from the city air, and inspire the pure air of the country."

It, however, unfortunately happens, that in many cases this change of situation cannot be effected, the circumstances of a large portion of the community being such, as necessarily to confine them, at all times, to the spot in which they happen to reside. In these cases, though the chances of success are much diminished, we must yet do the most for our patient, which the locality of his situation, and other circumstances, will admit. He should be removed to the largest and most airy room in the house, and, if possible, on the second floor. The room should be guarded from exposure to the direct rays of the meridian sun, while a constant and free ventilation is kept up.

The utmost cleanliness is also, to be observed in the room, as well as in the person and clothing of the patient, which latter should be of such materials as will, while they do not overheat the body, guard it against the effects of sudden changes of temperature.

In clear weather, and in the cool of the day, the child should be frequently carried about in the open air, in the most healthy parts of the neighborhood, or, where the parents have it in their power, considerable benefit will be derived from frequent rides in an open carriage into the neighboring country. Attention to the diet of the infant, agreeably to the directions hereafter to be laid down, is another circumstance which is never to be neglected; there is, indeed, no disease to which the aphorism of Hippocrates is more applicable than to the present; "Oportet non modo se ipsum exhibere, quam oporit faciendum, sed etiam eam placare, praebentibus externis." It is not necessary only for the physician to perform his office, but that the attendants upon the sick do theirs likewise, and that external circumstances be properly attended to.

In prescribing for a case of cholera infantum, the following appear to be the leading indications:

1st. To arrest the vomiting. 2d.—To procure a more healthy secretion from the liver. 3d.—To determine the blood from the overloaded viscera, and thereby produce a more equal distribution of the circulating fluids; and 4th.—To restore tone to the stomach and intestines, and then bring them to the general system.

Emetics.—The majority of those writers who have treated on the cholera of infants, have recommended its cure to be commenced with an emetic. This remedy, however, I conclude to be useless, if not hazardous. In those cases in which I have seen emetics administered, I have almost invariably found the convulsive and violent action of the stomach to be greatly increased, and I think, also, I have seen injury and consequences resulting from the depressing effects of the remedy alone. When it is thought to be necessary to aid nature in throwing off any offending matter from the stomach, this can be readily effected by the administration of mild diuretics, such as a weak infusion of chamomile flowers, tepid water, barley water, &c. without resorting to what, to say the least of it, is in this disease a doubtful remedy. According to the plan of treatment which I have adopted, the first indication is to endeavour to calm the irritation of the stomach, for, until a stop be put to the retching and vomiting, we are precluded from administering any remedy to act on the bowels. The usual anti-emetics, with the exception of opium, may be resorted to for this purpose, such as equal proportions of milk and lime-water, in tea-spoonful doses; a cold infusion of the fresh leaves of the mentha saxifraga, or common spearmint; or what has been found very successful in the cholera of adults, cold toast and water, made by boiling bread in water, the bread being first so thoroughly toasted, that the decoction will have a deep brown color.

In many cases, much benefit will be derived from a poultice of the green leaves of the garden-mint, steeped in hot water, and applied over the stomach as warm as the patient can bear it; but the remedy from which I have found most advantage, and which has not in a single instance failed in my hands, is the practice of systematically checking the disordered action of the stomach, by the spirits of turpentine, in doses of from ten to thirty drops, according to the age of the patient, and repeated three or four times in the course of the day; the good effects of this remedy, are not confined merely to its action on the stomach, but are extended to the intestines, correcting their vitiated secretions, checking their tendency to a repetition of griping and irritating stools, and producing throughout a tendency to a more healthy secretion. An hour or more should therefore be discontinued when the vomiting is checked, but it may be administered with advantage, at intervals, during the continuance of the disease. When the above remedies fail in suspending the vomiting, a blister or a salve to the stomach will most generally be found effectual; under certain circumstances of the disease, the application of blisters should never be overlooked; these however we shall notice hereafter.

Opium, Astringents, &c.—As soon as the stomach has been quieted, or even before, the employment of laudanum, either alone, or in combination with the coccus and astrin- sents, is recommended by many practitioners, particularly by Dr. Rush. By such judicious practice, I am well persuaded much of the mortality of the disease has been produced. It has always been too much the practice of physicians, in diseases consisting in increased discharges from the bowels, to have recourse at once to astrinrents and opiates; at one period of the disease, even the practice in dysentery, but it would do well for us to consider, whether, while we thus remove some of the prominent symptoms of the disease, we are not locking up in the system an enemy, whose presence is not the less fatal, because unsuspected. That in certain stages, and under particular circumstances of the disease, opiates, in proper doses, are indicated, I am well aware; but, when given in full doses, or at the commencement, they afford but a short lived, delusive repose, to the disordered actions of the bowels. Apart, also, from the injurious effects of improperly suspending the discharges from the intestines, I should object to their employment, previously to the use of evacuants, from another and equally powerful reason: in the acute stages of cholera infantum, there is a considerable tendency to cerebral disease, the irritation being sooner or later communicated to the brain from the intestines, so as, in some instances, to produce symptoms of delirium, in others, stupor, &c. Indeed, it is no uncommon circumstance for cholera infantum, when neglected, or improperly treated, to terminate in hydrocephalus internus; whatever therefore, has a tendency to increase this determination to the brain, cannot fail to do harm: opium and its preparations are well known to possess this property in a very great degree, and hence, on this account alone, they are dangerous remedies.

Calomel.—Instead, therefore, of administering opiates, or attempting to put a stop to the discharges from the bowels by the use of astrinrents, I am fully persuaded, with a late very judicious writer on the epidemics of our country, that "the safety of the patient depends, on a continued evacuation from the bowels of dark colored matter, the discharge of which is indispensable in every form of autumnal disease." To produce which, "the same remedies are demanded" in the cholera infantum, but, as the bowels are in an irritable state, the more active cathartics are in general required." Hence, it is best to resort to the use of purgatives, in infants and young children, is becoming a common practice with the physicians of Great Britain, who speak of its beneficial effects in the highest terms.


* From the late publications, it appears that the employment of spirits of turpentine in derangements of the
as soon as I have calmed the stomach, by the remedies already recited, I administer calomel, either by itself, or in combination with magnesia or rhubarb, the use of which is to be persevered until natural discharges from the bowels are procured.

To this disease, calomel is peculiarly well adapted—from the smallness of the dose requisite to produce its effects—from its being without taste, and not apt to excite nausea, it will remain on the stomach, when almost every other cathartic would be rejected—and, from the specific and powerful action it exerts on the liver, unloading its vessels, and stimulating it to a more healthy action, while it corrects the diseased action of the intestines, it strikes at once at the very root of the disease, and, exerts a salutary influence over the system, not to be obtained to the same extent, nor with the same certainty from any other remedy. To the late Dr. Edward Miller, of New York, we are indebted for the introduction of this remedy in the treatment of cholera infantum. He observes, in his "Remarks on the Bilious Diarrhoea of Infants," that as long as the state of the stomach and intestines is found to require evacuation, the most safe and unequivocal means, it is conceived, may be found in the use of calomel, accommodated in its smallest degree to the shape of the patient, and to other circumstances. As long as mere evacuation can be requisite or admissible, this medicine, uncombined, will prove efficacious, gentle, and safe."

"The common mode of treatment appears comparatively superficial and palliative; and, of consequence, the effects of it are transient; while calomel, penetrating to the utmost recesses of the disease, and disarming it of all malignity, effectuates a cure, at once radical, durable, and complete." Dr. Miller administered the calomel in doses of from one eighth of a grain to a grain every second, fourth, or sixth hour. In many cases, I have found a much larger dose requisite, while in others it will be proper to diminish it considerably. The size of the dose, as well as the period of its repetition, can be decided only by the age of the patient, and the circumstances of each case. There is, I am aware, with many practitioners, though I am happy to say the prejudice is fast wearing away, a great antipathy to the employment of any purgative, but particularly calomel, in cholera infantum; thus one writer declares "I could not reconcile it to my conscience to make trial of a remedy in a disease in which an increase of debility is the circumstance most to be guarded against, the primary and direct effect of which remedy, is to increase the evacuations, already too copious, and to reduce the strength of the patient, already too much exhausted."

Experience, however, has fully shown, that all such fears are entirely groundless, and that while opium, spiced brandy, and the whole list of astringents and stimulants that have been recommended, increase the very symptoms which are supposed to call so loudly for their employment, calomel, in doses suited to the age of the patient, and the violence of the disease, will be found to be the remedy best adapted to restore the system from its state of torpor; and hence is by far the best stimulant we can employ in this disease.

Even Dr. Chapman, in his lectures, has given it as his opinion, that we have purged too much in the cholera infantum. He has not, however, laid down any rule by which to graduate the extent to which purging should be carried. Judging from my own experience, and from what I have seen of the practice of others, I should come to a very different conclusion: I believe we have purged too little. In the exhibition of any remedy in disease we should have some determinate end constantly in view; and, until this be attained, provided the remedy we employ be calculated to attain it, we should persevere in its use. In the disease before us, the object for which we administer calomel is to procure bilius evacuations; and, until these be procured, we may be satisfied that we have not continued the remedy sufficiently long. As soon as we have produced a copious bilius stool, all the symptoms of the case are ameliorated; our little patient shall we find enhanced—his skin becoming moist, and of a more uniform temperature—and the frequency of the irritating discharges from the bowels will be diminished. To render permanent these favorable symptoms, the remedy must, however, be still continued; but as soon a change has been produced in the appearance of the discharges, the dose of the calomel may be diminished, or given at longer intervals.

After a free evacuation from the bowels has been procured by the use of calomel, a recent writer has recommended, in very high terms, the use of the powdered root of the asclepias tuberosa, in doses of from six to eight grains, in combination with some aromatic; or a decoction made from two drachms of the root, to a pint of new milk, boiled down to twelve oozes, and administered in doses of one ounce two or three times in the course of the day. This decoction, besides acting as a gentle cathartic, produces a determination to the skin. The employment of this remedy in cholera infantum, he states, was a common practice among the southern physicians; and he himself can bear ample testimony to its efficacy."

**Ipecacuana.**—With the calomel, I have invariably in the habit of combining a portion of ipecacuana, say from half a grain to a grain to each dose. The good effects of this remedy in all bowel complaints have long been celebrated, and are now very generally acknowledged. In dysenteria, it has been esteemed almost a specific, and in cholera infantum, in combination with calomel, it increases very sensibly the good effects of the latter, determining to the surface, and thus assisting to unload the vessels of the abdominal viscera, while it tends to abate the griping pains, quiet irregular action, and promote free regular stools.

As soon as we have succeeded in procuring sufficient natural discharges from the bowels, or when symptoms of actual debility admonish us to support the strength of our patient, the addition of opium in minute doses, to the above prescription, will be proper; or we may discontinue entirely the use of the calomel, and administer the ipecacuanth mixture, with the addition of tincture of opium.

Throughout the whole course of the disease, the indications for the continuance or suspension of the calomel, or for the employment of opiates and astringents, must, in a great measure, be taken from the appearance of the stool. We never give them to a patient in small quantities, or indicate that the biliary secretion is impeded or vitiated, the calomel and ipecacuana, by themselves, or combined with opium, are not to be laid aside.

When the circumstances of the case are supposed to indicate the addition of opium to the calomel, the relative proportions of the two articles can only be decided by the age, constitution, and habit of the patient, the stage and degree of violence of the complaint, as well as the concurrence and succession of the symptoms: and they must be continually varied, in order to meet these ever varying circumstances, and according, also, to the greater or less degree of evacuation desired.

(To be concluded next week.)

**CANINE MADNESS.**

**EXTRACTS FROM L. F. TROLLIET'S WORK ON THIS DISEASE.**

The animals most subject to rabies are the dog, the wolf, and the cat. In many places, canine madness has never been observed to exist. In Jamaica, according to the best authorities, it is a disease of comparatively very rare occurrence. In Antigua, it has never been observed. Larrey and Volney inform us that it is unknown in Egypt, and the latter adds in Syria also; and Barrow makes the same assertion with regard to the Cape of Good Hope. M. Trolliet, the author of an excellent memoir on this subject, had the patience to collect the dates of a very great number of cases published by different persons, and the result of his inquiry was, that in January and August, the smallest number of cases occurred. In wolves, it was observed most frequently during March and April, in dogs most frequently in May and September. In Europe the disease has met with the greatest consideration from the physicians of France, Germany, Italy, and England; and several learned medical men of the United States have made it the object of their researches. This circumstance would seem to prove that the disease is most common in temperate climates. It is said to be extremely rare in Poland.

Dogs have been kept for upwards of forty days without a drop of water, and have not become mad. On putrefied animal substances, dogs have been fed a considerable length of time without having had the disease. Its existence should be suspected as soon as the animal becomes dull and heavy, seeking solitude and obscurity; when he appears peevish and snappish, and is easily offended. At the outset of the disorder, he is constantly agitated, refuses his accustomed food and drink, hangs down his head, with his tail between his legs; though he still knows his master, he is not, as usual,挂ated at the sight of him; but he becomes sour, and, instead of barking, leaves his accustomed abode, running about with his mouth open, his tongue hanging out, and a quantity of viscid foam dropping from it. The eyes have a peculiar brilliant expression. Soon the characteristic symptoms appear; he is tormented by thirst which he cannot quench, from the diff-

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*Medical Works, p. 331. † Ibid, p. 379.  ‡ Currie on Cholera Infantum.*

*Dr. Burgon, Medical Recorder, vol. iii. p. 331.*
culty or impossibility of swallowing liquids; he 
seizes upon all animals that happen to come 
in his way, sometimes alone and his manner 
is not spared. In some instances, swellings 
about the throat and tongue have been observed 
before death. Dogs have been known to leave 
the house of their owner, and return to it, after 
having bitten animals, eat and drink as usual, 
and soon afterwards die. It is very ques-
tionable whether dogs really have any dread 
of water, as the name, hydrophobia, imports, for 
they never avoid it. They will pass through it, 
and even lap it for a length of time, but it would 
appear that none is swallowed, and the quantity 
of fluid in the vessel is not diminished.

According to Mr Meynell, the disease never 
appears in dogs in less than ten days after 
the bite has been inflicted; and death generally 
takes place from seven to ten days after the first 
symptoms have appeared. He has, moreover, 
known many instances of dogs having died mad, 
as late as eight months after the bite. They 
appear capable of communicating the disease as 
as soon as they begin to quarrel with other dogs, 
as before the characteristic symptoms appear.

Messrs Magendie and Broca, of Paris, have 
re-produced the disease in the dog, by inoculat-
ing him with the saliva of a young man laboring 
under rabies. The saliva was inserted beneath 
the skin of the forehead, and at the end of a 
month the animal became mad. Two dogs, bit 
by this, also became mad forty days afterwards; 
and these again bit several other dogs, without 
yang dreadful consequences ensuing. Thus 
the disease stopped of itself in the third genera-

Dr Vaughan and others, had previously tried 
to introduce the disease in a dog, by inoculating 
with the saliva of a person labouring under 
hydrophobia, but without success.

With regard to the disease as it occurs in 
the human species; in that case the spontaneous 
origin can by no means be admitted. It is true, 
that the single symptom hydrophobia, or dread 
of water, does occasionally occur, independent 
of the introduction of this poison; but then it is 
always in connection with some other disease, 
as hysteria, or epilepsy, or inflammation of the 
brain; and this is sometimes as a fatal symp-
ptom of St Vitus's dance. There are, and have 
two cases on record, where it was an attendant 
upon inflammation of the stomach; but it is not 
the disease, it is only one symptom of it, which 
differs in degree in different individuals. It may 
with confidence be ascertained, that cases publish-
ed as examples of the spontaneous origin of ra-
bies in the human species were not the genuine 
hydrophobia, but cases of other diseases, in 
which a dread of water occurred as an acciden-
tial birth.

The true canine madness, then, never occurs 
but subsequent to the introduction of the poison 
from a rabid animal, generally through the 
medium of a wound, but sometimes, though rarely, 
as it would appear, without any breach of sur-
face. Thus Celsus Aurelianus informs us, that 
a sempstress became afflicted with the disease 
from having mended a garment that had been 
torn by an enraged animal. She had put the 
thread which she had been using into her 
mouth, and had pressed the seams with her 
heels. M. Ehras, a French surgeon, was a man 
who became hydrophobic from having received 
on his lip the foam of a mad dog, and Dr Bard-

HEALTH OF JUNE.

The past month has been both healthy and agree-
able. A warm sun and gentle showers invariably mod-
ify diseases, and when the atmosphere is kept at an 
uniform temperature—although it be a high one—there 
is less sickness, even in unhealthy situations, than when 
the degrees of heat are constantly varying. People too 
often imagine there is danger of exposing themselves to 
the evening air of summer, but this is in general a very 
unphilosophical mistake: the more fully the body is ex-
posed to this pure and invigorating element, the more 
healthy is the individual. If, however, the atmosphere 
be too humid, precautionary measures are necessary. 
If there is as much exposure of the body as sound 
and uninterrupted health always requires, it would be ex-
ceedingly difficult to take a cold. Most of the eastern 
expositions have in the habit, from time immemorial, 
of sleeping upon their house-tops; yet a cold is scarce-
ly known, in the modern acception of the word, even 
on the banks of the Nile.

Were people more in the habit of admitting the air 
to circulate freely in their sleeping-rooms, at all sea-
sons of the year, the advantage would soon be mani-
fest. Unfortunately, we are too much governed by 
prejudice in all our common maxims of health, and 
place too much confidence in the whims of valentini-
nants. There is no way of maintaining a naturally 
good constitution, like breathing the air as it comes, 
winter and summer; but whenever a person attempts 
to be very careful about exposures, he may begin to 
look out for the first symptoms of some chronic malady.

Laborers, however exposed, either in mire or water, 
rarely suffer from those affection of lungs and liver, 
which are the constant torments of those who are for-
ever doing something to keep themselves from being 
sick.—Fortunately, there has been no one disease pre-
valent the past month, and if the mildness of the weath-
er is any criterion, we may hope for general health in 
the month of July.

MUMMIES.

Although we are perfectly aware the public has been 
completely satisfied with the sight of and conjectures 
about mummies, we cannot omit calling the attention 
of our professional brethren towards the subject, once 
more. In the New-England Museum, there is one 
room exclusively set apart for mummies, which, be-
sides the suspications against the probable time of their burial, &c., are, and always will be, objects 
of wonder and curiosity to physicians. No people 
more experienced have yet given us an opinion 
upon the shape of the heads of these ancient beings; 
and from an accurate measurement of the facial angle, 
according to the principles of modern craniologists, they

must have been tolerably sensible sort of folks. The 
expression of their features, however, if the malar 
bones are taken into consideration, was far from being 
buous. To be probable of the chin and ossa frontis, 
accompanied by a prominence of the same transmitted, 
must give a rather savage expression, and we are therefore 
led to believe, from a particular examination of the 
ones of the face, they had a forcible aspect. The 
bones, wherever they have been examined, are firm 
and unchangeable. There is such a quantity of bony 
matter imbued by the muscles, that it is nearly impossible 
to ascertain all the anatomist desires, in relation 
to the state of the flags. Neither can we find any one 
place where the colour of the skin can be determined.—

There is a certain appearance in the colour of the nails 
and the toes, which would rather lead a person to sup-
pose these mummies were white; but when the outlines 
of the face are examined, and the fact is recolicted that 
a copper-coloured complexion and such facial pecu-
larities generally accompany each other, the conclu-
sion will be a natural one, founded on common ob-
ervation, that they were either of that hue, or a dark 
olive, approaching to blackness.

From the vast number of hieroglyphics upon the "out 
and inside of the sarcophagi, which, by the by, are 
also as great curiosities as the mummy themselves, we 
at once infer they relate to some ceremonies of worship;

Dr Gall's lump of resolution, however, is but poorly 
developed. If any reliance can be placed on phrenologi-
cal discoveries, these mummies, although we have 
great reason to believe they were distinguished per-
sons, were exceedingly prone to quarrels, as the organ 
of combativeness, on the skull of an aged mummy, is 
the only one which is strongly marked. Owing to the 
serried condition of a lady mummy's hair, there was no 
possible way of examining the antennae tuberosity, usu-
ally conspicuous on all heads, whether male or female, 
among philosophers or barbarians, but there is scarcely 
remaining doubt, from the general cast of the face, 
according to Mr Coombs' observations, that she was a 
perfect virago, whose husband contrived this way, (by 
idling her capacious mouth with aromatic gum,) to 
keep her tongue still.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE CEREBELLUM.

M. Majendie in experimenting on a rabbit 
having accidentally wounded the crura cerebelli, 
it turned suddenly on its back, and whatever po-
sition it gave it, it rolled incessantly till some 
physical body arrested it. On dissection, he 
found that he had disordered in a great measure 
the crus cerebelli corresponding to that side to-
ward which the animal had a tendency to turn. 
On repeating this experiment on another rabbit, 
he found the same result; but on cutting the 
left crus, the rotation reverted from left to right. 
It struck me," says this eminent physiologist, "as 
being probable that the one transmitted a force 
which was equally balanced by the other, and 
that it was the equilibrium of these two 
forces that regulated the position, repose, and 
divers voluntary and involuntary motions. Sub-
sequent experiments convinced me this was the 
case, for on cutting both the crura, the animal 
became quite immovable, and showed not the 
least sign of animation. If I admitted the opinion 
of Professor Rolando upon the functions of 
the cerebellum, which he regards as the organ 
producing movement, I must have hesitated, but 
having in the course of my researches, ob-
served some animals completely deprived of the
cerebellum, and yet execute some regular movements, I thought it necessary to make further inquiry. The first step I took was to cut it, from the bottom upwards, in such a manner as to have three-fourths of the left, and one-fourth to the right; the animal rolled on the right, and its eyes were placed as if I had cut the left peduncle. I then made a section of the same extent on the left side; the rotation immediately ceased, and the eyes resumed their natural position. It is evident from this last experiment, that the division of the crura has more influence on the lateral rotation and inverted eyes, than the union of the cerebellum itself, and this induces me to think that the impulsive force comes not from this organ, but elsewhere. An experiment it struck me would throw some light on the subject—it was to separate vertically the cerebellum into two equal parts. Several ineffectual attempts were made before I could completely succeed, the section verging too much either to the right or the left, when the phenomena already described were exhibited, but in a less degree. But on eventually succeeding, the most curious phenomena were observable: the eyes were to an extraordinary degree agitated; they seemed to jump in their orbits, and the animal itself seemed to be placed between two repelling powers; on its inclination to one side it was instantly repelled to the other, and it remained balanced in this wonderful manner for several hours.

SLEEP AFTER MEALS.

It is a disputed point, whether a short sleep after dinner be not useful for promoting digestion; and in several countries it certainly is indulged with impunity, if not with evident advantage; besides that it seems to be consistent with the instinct of nature. It is, however, only among a class of the people that the practice can be used with propriety; and whoever adopts it, ought to confine the indulgence to a short sleep of a few minutes. For, if it be continued longer, there arises more loss, from the increase of insensible perspiration, than can be compensated by all the advantages supposed to accrue to digestion.

Those who use such a custom, which may be allowable to the aged and delicate, ought to place themselves in a reclining, not a horizontal posture; because in the latter situation the stomach presses upon a part of the intestines, and the blood is consequently impelled to the head.

VARIETIES.

ENGLISH OPUS.—Messrs Cowley and Stains still continue to grow poppies for opium, and as it would seem, very successfully. In the year 1823 they collected 106 lbs of opium from a twelve-acre field, and such was its character in the market, that it sold for two shillings a pound more than the best samples of foreign. The expense of its cultivation was 275L, of which 105L was paid to the laborers employed in collecting it. The whole produce of the field was 375L. The following remarks which they make concerning the soil proper; the growth of poppies, are important to those who may be specimens of cultivating this branch of agriculture.

A porous sub-soil appears to be a circumstance of the first-rate importance, for when it consists of clay our crops have invariably been inferior to those which have grown on such parts as were situated on the sand, although assisted with manure. So strong indeed is our conviction of the ill-effects of an impervious sub-soil, that we have no hesitation in saying, that however good the soil, or however dry it may appear, if it be situated immediately above clay, no profit can be extracted from it by the growth of poppies, so frequent will be the partial or total failure of the crops.

Mr Bell and M. Majendie.—Mr Bell, at the commencement of a course of lectures, which he is now delivering, after stating a general view of his researches into the phenomena of the brain, that there might be some surprise that in detailing these researches he had not mentioned the name of M. Majendie. He could not (he said), trust himself to speak on this subject, and, accordingly, verify any written paper a statement, in substance as follows: that he had communicated these researches as early as the year 1809: that in the year 1811 he was in possession of the principal facts of our present knowledge of the nervous system; that in the year 1821, a friend of his had gone over to Paris, and shown to M. Majendie a number of French medical men, plates and experiments illustrative of these discoveries, and that the experiments of M. Majendie were, indeed, from that time, more than a repetition of the experiments there exhibited. What may be the relative claims of these two eminent men, may not be very easy to settle, but certain it is, that Erasmiano has always been very ready to appropriate to themselves the discoveries made in England.

BLINDNESS.—We learn, says the National Journal, from a correspondent, that there is a man in Providence, (R. 1.) a man of the name of Oliver Shaw, who is perfectly blind, and who possesses powers of the most extraordinary nature. He was a sailor until about the 21st year, when, from some cause not particularly known, he became blind. He was gifted with a melodious voice, and possessed a most extraordinary musical ear; but at the time he became blind he knew nothing of the laws and principles of music as a science. He is now one of the best composers in this country, and can at any time set the notes to a tune by hearing it once played or sung. He plays in a masterly manner upon the piano, flute, clarionet, organ, &c., and distinguishes himself in these, and various other musical instruments, with wonderful exactness. He also selects the wires for the piano, strings for the violin, reeds for the clarionet, &c. with great skill and judgment; and all this he does by the sense of hearing. The whole has been acquired since the unfortunate loss of his sight.

GARGLE.—A writer in the Cincinnati Advertiser, says: "I feel it a duty which I owe to the community to notice the following, believing, as I do, that much good may result from the knowledge of a simple medicine for the removal of worms from children and others. A few cents' worth of English garlic, sliced and put into a quart of whisky, a teaspoonful of which is to be given to small children, each morning; this quantity may be varied according to age. This medicine has, to my knowledge, been effectual in removing that disgusting vermin, common in my family and others, where it has been used for nearly 20 years."

DEFENCE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—The Shear premium of twenty dollars will be awarded to the individual who shall present the best dissertation on the nature, causes, symptoms and treatment of hectic fever. Candidates for the premium must be graduated from the class of 1824, and must have passed an examination in medicine, physiology, materia medica, and surgery. The prize will be awarded at the annual commencement, and will be presented to the author of the dissertation, and be superseded with the motto corresponding with that on the title page of the essay.

ANIMAL REMAINS.—The following bones, &c. were buried on the banks of the Mississippi, viz.:—a horn, 12 feet long, weighing about 1000 pounds; a branch of a horn, 9 feet long, weighing 150 pounds; seven joints of the back bone, one joint of the tail, and two of the leg.

WINDSOR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of this society, holden in Windsor, Vt. on the 14th ult., the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year, viz.:—Erasmus Torrey, M.D. President; Dr. Na-velly—Vice President; John Burnell, M.D., Secre- tary.—Dr Moses Cobb, Treasurer.—Erasmus Torrey, M. D., John Burnell, M. D., Dr Moses Cobb, Censors.—Dr William Gibson, Librarian, and Delegate to represent this Society in the State Medical Society.

PROFESSOR BARLOW.—The Emperor of Russia, in testimony of the esteem in which he holds Professor Barlow, has presented him with a valuable gold watch and rich dress chain. The East India Board has also followed the example of the Admiralty and Trinity Boards, and made him a present of two hundred pounds.

QUINN BICOLOR.—The celebrated traveller Humboldt, communicated to the Academy of Science, on January 3, 1795, that he had received a letter from Dr. Brem, clinical professor at Padua, informing him that a new bark had been discovered, to which the name of quina bicolor had been given, and which in very small doses, is a more powerful febrifuge than the best bark.

ZIRCONIUM.—or the metal of Zirconia, or the Zirconstone, has been obtained separate by M. Berzelius, by processes described in the John, de Chim. It is black as jet, and a fluid consisting of hydrochloric acid. At a temperature slightly elevated, it burns with great intensity, and forms zirconia.

IMPORTANT.—The Elector of Hesse has ordered, that a certain number of surgeons and physicians be deputed to examine the bodies of all who die, as an efficient means of preventing the horrors of premature interment, of discovering murder, and of stopping contagion.

ANOMALY.—On the 17th ult. at Jacob Wilson's plantation in Albemarle District, S. C. three male sheep were strangled, from which were taken eleven testes; and what is more astonishing, two external testes were taken from a female sheep of the same parent.

GIANT.—A writer in the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette says, that Mr Magie, 8 feet 9 inches high, from the county of Tyrone, Ireland, has recently arrived in the Conestoga, at Philadephia.

YELLOW FEVER.—We have just been informed that the yellow fever has made its appearance in New-York.

ASASSINE.—A gentleman telling a lady that an apothecary's assistant, whose acquaintance had failed, was obliged to shut up shop, she inquired the cause, to which the gentleman replied, that he was so honest a man that instead of lending his patients with medicines, he advised them to take the wholesome air, and of course lost the profit which would have arisen from the sale of the drugs. "Poor man," said the lady, "poor man! he is indeed to be pitied; he cannot live on air, though his patients may.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending July 9th; from the Health-Office Returns.
July 9.—Elihannah Saunders, 47, Od—Fame Stone, 22; John Odell, 47; John Finn, 51; Mary Ann Rod- den, 2, 13; Child of Mary A. Lawrence, 4th. —Edw. Ratchelder, M. D. Dean, of the Faculty, on or before the first day of December next. Each dissertation must be accompanied by a sealed letter, containing the name of the author, and superscribed with the motto corresponding with that on the title page of the essay.

ANIMAL REMAINS.—The following bones, &c. were buried on the banks of the Mississippi, viz.:—a horn, 12 feet long, weighing about 1000 pounds; a branch of a horn, 9 feet long, weighing 150 pounds; seven joints of the back bone, one joint of the tail, and two of the leg.

DIED.—In N. Orleans, Dr John Crocker, aged 73.
OBSERVATIONS.

CHOLERA INFANTUM.

OBSERVATIONS ON ITS PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT.

By Dr. Francis Codrington, M. D.

Read before the Philadelphia Medical Society.

(Congraduated from page 38.)

Magnesia.—When, from the green and frothy appearance of the stools, and the acid reactions or evolutions by vomiting, we have reason to suspect the existence of an acid in the stomach and intestines, to the calmol and ipecacuanha should be combined a portion of calciined magnesia. Though this acid is not the primary cause of the griping and purging, yet its presence has the effect of increasing and continuing these symptoms, and requires the administration of such remedies as will have the effect of removing or neutralizing it: this will in general be obtained by the use of the magnesia. Dr. Kuhn, formerly Professor of the Practice in the University of Pennsylvania, recommends, in very high terms, a small portion of a solution of pure ammonia in combination with the magnesia. Of this prescription, I have never made a trial; but have been accustomed to prescribe, during the continuance of the symptoms mentioned above, and with the best effect, a weak solution of the sub-carbonate of soda, with the addition of mint water; as—R. Sub-carbonat soda, 3 ij.; Aq. pura, 3 ij.; Aq. iij. M. —Of which the patient is to take a spoonful every two or three hours.

The prescription made use of by Dr. Kuhn, was, I am informed, the following:—R. Magnesia calc. 9 ij. Pulv. Gum. Arab. 9 ij. Sacc. Alb. pur. 3 ij. Aq. mentha pip. 3 ss. Aq. pura, 3 ij. M. Add. aq. ammonia pura, gtt. xlviiij. ad cxlv. according to the age of the patient. Of this mixture, the dose is a tea-spoonful every two hours.

Injections.—With respect to the effects to be derived from oily and mucilaginous injections, so generally recommended in the treatment of cholera, I can say but little, having but seldom employed them myself. I am well persuaded, however, that in the early stage of the disease, they can produce but a palliative and transient effect, not sufficient to compensate for the difficulty and trouble attendant upon their proper administration in infants. In a later stage of the disease, however, after the discharges have assumed more of a natural appearance, with the addition of a proper quantity of laudanum, they have a good effect, and may be frequently repeated.

Bleeding.—Occasionally we find the abdomen to be swollen, tense, and, from the crises and motions of the child, evidently painful to the touch, while the pulse is small and contracted. Under these circumstances, the safety of the patient demands evacuation of blood, either by the lancet, or locally by the application of leeches; and if from the fear of inducing debility, or any other circumstance, it be neglected, there is little hopes of his recovery. With the above symptoms present, it is in vain to depend upon

the effects of any remedy, until bleeding has been practised, for inflammation and its consequences will have ensued, long before we can hope to make any impression on the affected viscera, even by the use of the colure. By those who look upon cholera to be a disease attended with such a degree of debility as to preclude the employment of purgatives, the use of the lancet will not doubt be viewed with horror; such kind of fear, however, should have very little effect on our practice, when we recollect, that at one period, for the very same reason, the dread of debility, the lancet was prescribed entirely, or else employed with a trembling hand, in the treatment of almost every variety of abdominal inflammation, in dysentery, peritonial inflammation, the puerperal fever, &c.

Dr. Rush has observed, that subsequent to the year 1793, the cholera infantum had assumed symptoms of such malignity, as to require for its cure, repeated bleedings. The beneficial effects of this remedy were strikingly evinced in the epidemic cholera of the East Indies, which, as we have before remarked, is only a higher and more aggravated grade of the disease of which we are now treating. According to a return of one hundred cases, made by Dr. Burrell, we find that of eighty-eight who were bled, but two died, while, of twelve cases in which the lancet was not employed, eight terminated fatally.

I would not be understood, however, as recommending bleeding indiscriminately in every case of cholera infantum, but in those, and in those only, where the swelling, tension, and tenderness of the abdomen, and the state of the pulse, indicate that inflammation either exists, or is about to commence. With respect to the quantity of blood to be drawn, as well as the propriety of repeating the operation, the positive rules can be laid down; these circumstances are to be decided by the beyonds of each individual case. In some cases, Dr. Rush informs us, he found two, or even three bleedings to be requisite.

Warm Bath, Fomentations, Blisters.—After bleeding, the warm bath, and warm fomentations to the abdomen, will be proper; and if the symptoms be not removed by these remedies, a blister should be immediately applied over the stomach.

Throughout every stage of the disease, the warm bath, when properly managed, and followed by quieting frication to the body, is a valuable auxiliary to the other remedies, softening the skin, determining the blood from the overloaded viscera to the surface, and equalizing the excitement. When, from any circumstance, the warm bath cannot be employed, warm fomentations to the abdomen may be substituted. The addition of spirits to the bath, and to the fomentations has been said to increase greatly their efficacy. Dr. Rush has even recommended the bath to be made entirely of warm wine.

* Medical Inquiries and Observations, vol. ii. p. 221.
* Medical Reports of the British Army in India.
* Medical Inquiries and Observations, vol. ii. p. 221.

Cold Bath, &c.—By Dr Miller, and a few other practitioners, the cold bath, or sponging the body with cold water, has been proposed in the treatment of this disease, though they do not appear to speak of the effects of either remedy from their own experience. I can see nothing in the nature and symptoms of the disease to indicate the employment of either; and from the immediate effects of the remedy on the system, I should apprehend injury rather than benefit from its use.

In those cases of the disease where a determination of blood to the brain is indicated by the undue temperature of the head, the turgescence and redness of the face, and redness of the eyes, delirium, or stupor, &c. local blood-letting, by leeches applied to the temple or nape of the neck, will be proper. Under these circumstances, Dr Miller has recommended the application of cold water. A blister over the stomach, and mustard poultices to the extremities, will be found of advantage.

Charcoal.—In a later stage of the disease, when it has become in some degree chronic, and the discharges from the bowels are acrid, I black charcoal, and tannin, with the recommendation of Dr Robert Jackson, I have been induced to make trial of charcoal, and with most decidedly good effects. Dr Jackson prescribes the charcoal in combination with rhubarb and ipecacuanha. Of this combination, he observes, that not only in dysentery, but in every case of diseased secretions from the intestinal canal, whether in children or in adults, he looks upon it not less a specific than is the bark in the cure of regular intermittents. The prescription I have in general employed is as follows:—R. Charcoal, grs. v. Pulv. Radic. Rheum, grs. v. Pulv. Radic. Ipecac. gr. v. Musc. Gum. Arab. 8 ss. M. The above is to be repeated every three hours, or the charcoal may be advantageously combined with the oleoginous mixture.

Under the employment of this remedy, the stools soon become more natural in appearance, and diminished in frequency, while the appetite for food, and the digestive powers of the stomach, are sensibly increased. The charcoal is, I am well persuaded, a remedy which is deserving of a more extensive trial in the diseases of the bowels, than it has yet met with among the practitioners of this city. It will no doubt soon become a valuable auxiliary in our lists of the materia medica.

When cholera infantum has continued for any length of time, the little patient is very liable to be much distressed from wind distending the stomach and bowels; under these circumstances I have found a portion of genuine unarmed cordial, diluted with water, to be a very useful remedy. The spirits of turpentine will, in removing however, give speedy relief, and appears, from its action on the stomach, to prevent, in some degree, any subsequent accumulation. In those cases where the flatulence is very considerable, the vitriolic ether has been recommended, in

Sketch of Febrile Diseases, 2d edition, p. 47.
Doses of a few drops in any simple herb tea, or even pure water; where the above remedies fail in discharging the wind, small doses of volatile alkalii, in simple cinnamon water, will, in general, succeed in giving the desired relief.

As soon as the prominent symptoms of the disease have been subdued, and natural discharges from the bowels established, our next duty is to restore tone to the stomach and intestines. The prescription I have found best adopted to this end, has been the crenaceous mixture, with the addition of tinct. kino; or we may employ infusions or decoctions of colostrum, or devil's root, logwood, catechu, &c. Indeed, any of the list of vegetable astringents and tonics will answer our purpose. According to the late Professor Barton, the root of the German mumculum, boiled in milk, has been found an excellent remedy in this stage of the cholera infantum: in its use we need not be very particular about the dose.*

Diet.—Throughout every stage of the cholera infantum, the proper regulation of the diet is a subject of no inconsiderable importance. The milk of the mother, or nurse, where the child has not been weaned, is certainly by far the most proper article of food; but where this has been the case, the patient should be confined principally to a thin decoction of arrowroot, sugar, or tapioca, in milk, and sweetened with loaf sugar, or a decoction made in the same manner from ground rice. Fresh whey, sweetened with loaf sugar, will also be found to be a very excellent article. I have known it to be readily taken by the child, when the above articles were rejected, or disagreed with the stomach. When fresh milk of the cow is used, it should be perfectly fresh, and is to be boiled before it is used. It has been remarked by Dr Rush, that "after the disease has continued for some time, we often see an appetite suddenly awakened for articles of diet of a stimulating nature. He has seen many children recover, from being gratified in inclination to eat salted fish, and the different kinds of salted meat. In some instances, they evince an appetite for butter, and the richest gravis of roasted meat, and eat them with obvious relief to all their symptoms.*)"

To the correctness of the above remarks, I can bear testimony, having in my own practice, frequently met with instances of this desire for the coarsest and most stimulating articles of food, and have always hailed it as a favorable symptom.

Prevention.—The means proper to guard against an attack of cholera infantum, may be summed up under the heads of attention to clothing, and removal from the sources of the disease.

The breast milk of the mother is the proper and only natural food of the infant; nature does not afford, nor can art contrive, any effectual substitute for that fluid. To it, therefore, the child should be almost entirely confined, if circumstances will allow of it, until the process of dentition has made some progress. It is impossible to lay down any rule which will be alike applicable to every case; as a general practice, however, the child should not be taken from the breast, until it be at least one year old. After

meaning, its diet should consist of articles nutritive, easy of digestion, and but little stimulating; all spices or seasoning, with the exception of salt, all sorts of pastry, butter in every form, unripe fruits, and fermented liquors, must be carefully avoided.

The article of clothing, in our climate particularly, is a matter of much importance. It should be loose, and of a light and soft texture, and carefully accommodated to the state and changes of the weather, so as to preserve the body of an even a moderate temperature. Cleanliness of the clothing, as well as of the skin, is always indispensable to the health and comfort of the child, and should, therefore, be sedulously attended to.

Inure and heated air having been laid down as the chief causes of the cholera, it will hardly be necessary to say anything of the importance of a removal of children to a healthy situation in the country, before the extreme heat of the summer commences. It is the best preservative against the disease; and even after it has occurred, a removal from the city, as was observed in the commencement of this essay, is one of the most powerful auxiliaries in restoring the patient to health. It is remarked by Dr Rush, that he has "never known but one instance of a child being affected with this disease, who had been carried into the country in order to avoid it."

As soon, also, as dentition has commenced, its progress should be attentively watched, and when the gums become swollen and inflamed, if the teeth do not speedily make their appearance, an incision should be made to them through the gum: this is particularly necessary when teething occurs in the summer months.

DEATH BY DRINKING COLD WATER.

The number of deaths in this city, the last week, imputed to a too free use of cold water, are exceedingly melancholy. We are fully persuaded that something more than cold water, however, has an agency in these sudden and often fatal affections of the stomach system.

So far as our own observations have extended, laboring people are the most liable to injuries from drinking cold water, when the atmospheric temperature is very high, and a majority of those who have died, have been either grossly intemperate, or were strongly inclined to it. There is a mistaken notion prevailing the laboring part of the community, that if the weather is excessively warm, it is necessary to take the more spirit. Nothing can be more erroneous, nor any practice more pernicious. The less spirit a man drinks, the better it is for him, under all circumstances. A constant use of liquors, of a stimulating nature, degrades, by a slow but certain train of operations, all the animal functions, and places the nervous and circulating systems in that peculiar condition, that any extraordinary excitement has a constant tendency to expel the powers of life in an instant. Such, we believe, was the state of those who have been the victims to an immediate use of cold water: they have carried on the excitement, by a steady and habitual course of tippling, till a sudden change in the secretory organs, by a draught of water several degrees below the temperature of their own bodies, produces an instantaneous apoplexy, or induces the most aggravated spasms in the stomach and bowels, which quickly terminate the life of the unhappy victim.

Those physicians who have had the most experience with these cases, if called in seasonably, have found that free blood-letting, and emetics which operate quickly and powerfully, are the most certain means of overcoming the apoplectic symptoms, and restoring the natural heat of the body. Oftentimes, however, the patient falls down and breathes his last before any one is aware of his being indisposed, and the putrefactive process follows with as much rapidity as in those who have been struck with lightning—which shows, most conclusively, that the vis insita of the muscular fibre is annihilated, and all hope, therefore, of recalling the nervous power, is forever lost.

Such are often the fatal results of indulging in intemperance, which exposes the individual to instantaneous death, by simply quenching his thirst with that pure, invigorating element—Water, which the God of nature has so abundantly supplied for his necessities and use.

N. B. Since writing the foregoing article, on Tuesday last, we have not only had ample opportunities of witnessing the effects of drinking cold water when the body was overheated, but have taken pains to consult our professional neighbors on the mode of treatment which has with them been found the most successful; and we are happy to find that their opinion, in relation to copious bleedings, corresponds precisely with our own. The labor of the physicians on Wednesday, and some part of Thursday, is almost incredible. One physician reports fifty-four cases which came under his care, in the course of those two days, and many others were quite as much overwhelmed with business. As disorder seemed exclusively confined to that particular class of citizens, before mentioned, many of whom were Irish emigrants, and who were without the means of paying for medical services, we believe there has not been an instance where any compensation has been demanded.—Antimonial wine has been thought, by some, the most preferable emetic, where vomiting was evidently necessary, and this could always be determined by the racking pains in the stomach and bowels.

LOW SPIRITS.

There is nothing more mysterious in human nature, than the connection between matter and mind. We are well aware there is nothing of a novel character in this expression; but still, the operations of mind upon the body, under the influence of different feelings, excited by certain associations, depending upon our relation to society, the pursuits of business, domestic employments, or individual friendships, must not be neglected by the physician, although he may never be able to prescribe a remedy. Such, indeed, is the constitution of man, and such, too, is his misfortune, that, in possessing the highest intellectual attributes, he is liable to become the subject of care, anxiety, and even despair, and health is meted out to him in proportion to the development of sensorial power, and the trials which these faculties have to encounter, by the greater perfection to which they may have been carried by discipline and education.

It is only among the rudest members of common society, that impressions are ever so vivid as to produce death from excessive joy. The father who died by immediate laughter, when his three sons won the prize at the Olympic games, and the door-keeper of the American Congress, who expired on hearing the glorious news of peace, were men of inferior powers; but, on the other hand, men who have given the most convincing testimony of superior attainments—men, whose

* Collections, &c. towards a Materia Medica of the United States, p. 7.


genius has given them a niche in the temple of fame—who have called the flowers of literature and strewn them with a liberal hand—men of noble souls and exalted characters, whose hearts were as feeling as they were good—have often become a prey to all those keen annoyances of a depressed spirit, which gnaw away the vital, and make that life—which should have been a happy one—a cold and cheerless waste.

A majority of the maladies, for which the physician is consulted, in persons of delicate temperaments, have a direct origin in some labor of the mind, which extends its influence to the animal system, and thus the discriminating pathologist may detect, by carefully weighing a train of circumstances, which are all referable to the social state, the origin of nervous debility, local pains, fatal affections of the lungs, and even organic diseases of the heart. Women are by no means exempted from these peculiar suffering: indeed, the most refined and lovely females are the most frequent subjects of those fatal diseases, which are depending on some hidden secret in the mind; and every rolling year carries with its seasons, many hundreds of interesting females, the pale victims of a broken heart. There is no sight, to a professional man, more melancholy, than to witness the daily progress of these fatal symptoms upon the care-worn cheek of an innocent, but disconsolate youth, whose only ill is truly in the mind; and there is nothing better calculated to induce him to mourn over the imperfection of the healing art, which cannot cure a wounded spirit.

Intemperance, when properly encouraged, and when the sun shines mildly through the little day of life, and all the springs of youthful vigor are kept in balance by an "elastic spirit, bounding to the clouds," insures both length of days and happiness: but when the world has lost its charms, and the flowers no longer yield a rich perfume; when friends are dropping to the grave, and the azure sky is darker each returning day; the slender tenement, which held so rich a gem—the rational, immortal soul—wither in the blast of sorrow, and all that could have charmed the eye in symmetry and form, dissolves in death, forever.

Where there is great muscular strength, it is in most instances the chief trait of character; and we look in vain for those peculiar sensations which are distinguishing marks of intellectual excellence. Such people are never liable to mental alienation or depression; strong in themselves, they only yield to those acute febrile or inflammatory diseases which overpower the tension of the animal fibre, and bring them suddenly on the bed of sickness. In health, they eat and drink, and sweetly sleep away their grief. Two thirds of mankind, in civilized nations, are of this happy temperament; the class of crying philosophers, therefore, bears no adequate proportion to those who laugh away all care.

Every station in society is attended with certain responsibilities, for which the personal character of the individual is held in public pledge; and the never-ending perplexities arising out of an extensive acquaintance, when some unforeseen misfortune occurs, involving the pride of a lofty spirit, sink it, with a woful preponderance, to the lowest abyss of misery. One sight over the memory of a beloved wife; another shuns the world's stare, and grieves for the loss of that wealth which once made him many friends—he learns too late, the evanescent charms of gilded friendship; and there a sober pensiioner of sorrow steals through the silent grove, and as she seems to gaze on some object in the sky, the falling tears in quick succession roll, and tell a tale of pity—how she is left to nurse a secret that almost burns her heart.

To such causes, the physician may trace a long catalogue of those chronic affections, which are becoming more and more common in those circles where there is a progressive refinement; and in the proud march of society, there will, in all successive ages, follow in its train, a powerful troop of secret-working miseries.

Hypochondriasis is the effect of an imaginary evil, and is, in itself, totally distinct from those affections of a harmless mind, feeding, in grief and solitude, upon a feeble, trembling, care-worn frame.

Low spirits, which have a foundation in realities, and which are nourished by a painful recollection of some past event, should never be the butt of mirth; this, in a medical practitioner, betrays the meanest, lowest kind of breeding, and should exclude him from the privileges of men of science. To feel another's woe—to sympathise with those who need no other cordial than sympathy and kindness—is noble, generous, and doubly valued in the man who knows how consolation should be given, when he gives out prescriptions for a wandering mind, engendered in the mind.

HEALTH IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

By comparing the bills of mortality, for several years past, in the New-England States, it has been ascertained that more persons in proportion die in sea-ports, in a given time, of acute diseases, than in the country; but, the number of deaths by chronic maladies, is considerably greater in the country. More unmarried females, die, annually, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six, in the country, than on the shores of the Atlantic; and the whole number of deaths throughout the northern states, yearly, shows most conclusively, that the mortality of married women, in either place, by acute or chronic diseases, is less than that of the unmarried. A greater number of young men die in cities, between the ages of nineteen and twenty-seven, than in the country. More men die in towns, than women; but, on the contrary, in the country, the number of deaths amongst females, exceeds those of males.

Married women are more liable to die of pulmonary consumption, than unmarried men; but in the marriage state, more males die of pulmonary affections, than women. The mortality is always greater among children, between the period of birth and the second year of their age, in town than in the country; but from the age of six to twelve, fewer children are lost, in either place, than before or after those ages.

CANCINE MADNESS.

EXTRACTS FROM L. E. TROLLOPE'S WORK ON THIS DISEASE.

(Continued from page 30.)

There is nothing peculiar in the wound to distinguish it from the bite of a dog that is not mad, and it heals as soon; and, from the period of the bite till the first symptoms appear, there is little, if any, derangement of the health, nor any perceptible change in the constitution, provided the person bitten be not under the influence of fear. When the poison begins to produce its effects, there is generally some degree of pain or disagreeable feeling in or about the wound, and this is generally described as following the course of the nerves supplying the part, frequently there is swelling and inflammation, and often a fresh discharge from the wound a short time before the symptoms appear. In several cases where pain and uneasiness were complained of in the course of the nerves, these parts were minutely examined after death, but no unusual appearance could be detected.—The period at which the first symptoms appear, varies considerably in different patients, from a few days to several months. The shortest interval is mentioned by Trollope as three or four days, and the longest that of seventeen months, by Dr. John Hunter; and this is giving a greater latitude than is generally required. The fever, as a rule, begins about the fourteenth and thirtieth days; in five, between the fortieth and fiftieth, and in one after three months and a half had elapsed. There can be but little doubt that the invasion of the disease may be hastened by different causes; in some it has been fear, in others exposure to the ardent rays of the sun, and it is not improbable that sometimes excesses in eating and drinking, great exertion of body and mind, and prolonged night-watchings, may have had similar effects.

We may here remark, that dogs seem much more susceptible of the influence of this poison than our own species, for, as we are informed by Dr. Trelawney, in his History of the Dog, four men and two women were bitten by the same mad dog, and every one of the dogs died, while all the men escaped, though they made use of no other means of precaution than such as are every day seen to fail: There is also an account of twenty one persons having been bitten by the same mad dog, only one of whom had the disease; hence it has been stated as an average, that not more than one person out of twenty-five who have been certainly exposed to the bite of a rabid animal, has become affected.

The first symptoms of the disease, after the pain and uneasiness about the wound, are, pain or heaviness of the head, sometimes general and deep seated, at others slight; great depression of spirits, anxiety, and restlessness; fear, which has been mentioned as a cause of the invasion, now becomes a symptom, and increases with the progress of the malady; the functions of the mind become excited, the memory is more retentive, the conceptive faculty easier, and the imagination more fertile; there is a peculiar kind of delirium, during which the patient talks rapidly and incessantly of objects which either interest him, or of past events as if they were actually present; sometimes there is somnolence or taciturn melancholy. The organs of the senses have acquired a higher degree of sensibility; there is constant rolling of the eyes, which are more opened, from the elevation of the upper eye-lid; they have an unusual brilliancy, and in some cases the pupil is very much dilated; most frequently the motions of the voluntary muscles are inordinately excited, and would seem to overact the intention of the mind, as every thing which the patient does is performed with great hurry and agitation, and there is an almost incessant and violent jactation. The organs of digestion are also affected, and hence arises in some cases nausea and efforts at vomiting, sometimes actual vomiting and pain at the pit of the stomach.—The pulse becomes very frequent, and fuller than natural; in some instances the respiration is slow, but more commonly it is increased in frequency, and there is a loss of relation between the pulse and respiration. Frequent sighing is a pretty constant attendant. But the characteristic symptom is
the dread of water, or rather difficulty and impossibility of swallowing liquids, and this as has already been observed, varies in degree in different individuals. The patient is tormented with thirst; and on attempting to drink, violent convulsions of the muscles about the larynx, pharynx, and fauces, are excited, producing a sensation of choking or suffocation. Perhaps a better idea cannot be given of this symptom than by comparing it to that agitation which a person, who is afraid of the water, experiences when he is suddenly pushed into it against his will; when the chest becomes agitated with convulsive motions, during which short inspirations succeed to a rapid expiration. At a later period, the patient cannot even look at liquids, without experiencing this distressing symptom, which has, according to some very respectable authors, been produced by the sight of a looking-glass, a transparent glass, or shining piece of metal, and even by the agitation of the air. In the course of the disease, this symptom is diminished or ceases entirely, for a time, but soon returns, with the convulsions of such a character, as to affect the whole body. Without this peculiar strangulation, or affection of the respiratory organs, the characteristic symptom of the disease is absolutely wanting.

To the above symptoms may be added, a sensation of burning heat, sometimes referred to the stomach, sometimes to the chest; the almost constant flow of thick foam from the mouth, which as the disease proceeds, becomes so viscid that the patient cannot expectorate but with very great difficulty; he is constantly spitting out with great vehemence, and it is only by sudden and strong convulsions that he is able to remove it. The skin is covered with clammy perspiration. Towards the close of the disease, when the muscular power is on the decline, the pulse becomes small, soft very feeble and irregular; and this generally points to an immediate death, which sometimes seems the effect of suffocation; occasionally the patient expires in the midst of convulsions, but it is much more common for him to sink rapidly, and become quiet and calm at an early time before the final event takes place.

Never does the patient utter any sound that can with any degree of propriety be compared to the barking of a dog; but his voice is frequently very hoarse and rough; nor can much credit be given to those authors, who mention a desire to bite as one of the characteristics of the disease.

(To be concluded next week.)

**Fermented Liquors.**

Fermented liquors, to prove advantageous to the health, ought not to be too strong; otherwise they hurt digestion, and weaken, instead of strengthening the body; for when in that state, and drank in large quantities, they inflame the bowels and dispose to a variety of diseases. A certain degree of strength, however, is necessary to adapt them to most constitutions in cold climates. For, if too weak, they produce wind in the bowels, and occasion fluxuretices; or if became stale, they turn sour on the stomach, have a pernicious effect on digestion, and prove otherwise hurtful. If fermented liquors, made for sale, were faithfully prepared, as there is too much reason to believe they are not, and were made to proper degree, they would, instead of morbid, be a comfortable and wholesome beverage; but while they continue to be drunk under every circumstance opposite to salubrity, the effects they produce must be more injurious than beneficial to general health.

**WATER.**

The best water is that which is pure, light, and without any particular color, taste, or smell. Where water cannot be obtained pure from springs, wells, rivers, or lakes, care should be taken to deprive it of its pernicious qualities by boiling, and filtering, but most effectually by distillation. Any putrid substances in the water may be removed by the addition of alum powder. Thus, half an ounce of alum in powder will make twelve gallons of corrupted water pure, and transparent in two hours, without imparting a sensible degree of astrignency. Charcoal powder has also been found of great efficacy in checking the putrid tendency of water. To the same purpose, vinegar and other strong acids are well adapted.

**VARIETIES.**

**DEAF AND DUMB.—**The number of Deaf and Dumb persons in the United States is 6000; in the State of New York 600. The school for the instruction of this class of persons has, in the course of the last 27 years, received 27 of whom are paid for by the state, and the remainder in the manner usual in other public academies. The state is entitled to 32, and for the five vacancies there are 36, and one each on the average of the treasurer, the last year, amounted to 10,302 dollars in favor of the Institution, on the first of January last. The school is well conducted, and has extended the benefits of education to 80 persons since its establishment in 1813. The term of instruction is three years.

**Resignation of Lectureships.**—We have seen, by an advertisement in a Connecticut paper, that the distinguished Dr. Whitney Smith has resigned his lectureship in the Medical School of Maine, and in that of Burlington, Vt. Dr. Wells, the present Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the School of Maine, will, in future, we understand, give the course on Operative Surgery. There is but little doubt that one or two new appointments will be made in the School at Brunswick, in the course of the present season.

A correspondent informed us on Saturday, that the distinguished Prof. of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, has resigned his chair, and reports a gentleman in Boston, well known to the profession, is talked of for a successor.

**WARM WEATHER.**—From about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 10th, to nearly noon on the 13th inst., the weather has been of a temperature, which can scarcely be found during the first months of the winter, in parts of the South. The thermometer, during the most of that period, in the day time has ranges, in this city, between ninety-five and one hundred, and in the night has never fallen below seventy-seven.

**Poisonous Fish.**—We have heard several instances of persons being poisoned by eating oysters, lobsters, and oysters. If, as in generally the case, the poisonous quality is produced by some mineral substance, it can be detected by applying a piece of clean silver, which will turn black if the fish be poisonous.—N. E. Farmer.

**Legal Bequest.**—The late Dr. Seward, of Philadelphia, has left 1000 dollars for the education of the Deaf and Dumb; 500 to the Orphan Asylum; 250 to the Philadelphia Dispensary; and, accordingly, 400 to furnish money to the parish poor, to maintain them for a few days after getting out of the hospital, and while seeking employment.

**New Appointments.**—We learn that Dr. Edward Cutbush, M. D. is elected Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department of the Columbian College; and that Frederick May, M. D. is elected Professor of Obstetrics in the Medical Department of the Columbian College.

**MEDICINAL QUALITIES OF COFFEE.**—A writer in one of the French periodical works thinks that the free use of coffee has a tendency to prevent, or mitigate those distressing maladies, the gout and the gout.

**WEAKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,**

Ending July 16th; from the Health-Office Returns.

July 7.—Harriet Adams, 36. 9th.—Sarah White, 50. 10th.—Smith, 2 weeks; Margaret Carpen, 14; Eliza Fiske, 56; Amelia Henning, 62. 11th.—Samuel Waters, 53; Mary Smith, 28; James Ward, 50; Mary Fox, 22; Martha C. Wyatt, 24; William Morey, 44; Sarah B. Smith, 5; Henry J. Hoskin, 60; Sarah Lord, 14 mo; Elizabeth Goodwin, 55; Rodney Harris, 21. 12th.—Hope Grims, 53; Margaret Nour, Samuel Vincent, 35; Richard Q. Hoskins, William Quinn; Cornelius Conner; Bridge Conner; Timothy Kehoe, 26; Daniel Wilkins, 9 mo; Anna Raymond, 70; John Kirt, 27; Jonathan G. Weeden, 38; William Wyr, 28; Constant Hopkins, 47; Mary T. Simpkins, 56; H. A. Bryan, 27; Thomas Tigs, 37; Michael Kaas, 27; Mary Dean, 30; Mary Warren, 19; William Morey, 28; Solomon Croft, 19; Agnes Vaugh, 33; Ann Walker, 2 mo; Daniel, 3 weeks; Helen Morse, 11 mo; John Gibson, 48. 13th.—Mary H. Snow, 25; Sarah M. Grant, 19. 14th.—Hannah V., 15; E. T. Williams, residuated, at the Cathedral B. Ground, South Boston.—15th.—Catherine McCarthy, from Stoneham; John Laflin, 40, from Easton; Andrew Frey, 26, from Waltham; Thomas Howlett, 35, from Chelsea; Owen Kelly, 26, from Roxbury.

**Sudden, 21st.—**Convulsion, 9—Infantile, 5—Lung Fever, 2—Droop, 1—Breaking of a Blood Vessel, 1—Hunting Comp., 3—Dysentery, 1—Inflammation in the Intestines, 2—Croup, 1—Malignant, 1—Putrid, 1—Supposed to be Murdered, 1—Over-heated, 2—Apoplexy, 1—Spasms, 1—Puerperal Fever, 1—Disorder of the Bowels, 1—Cancer, 1.

**Died**—At Simsbury, Dr. John Bostor, a physician.

On the 20th, at Bellevue, N. Y., where he was acting as surgeon of the physicians of the Alms House, Dr. Charles Flanders, aged forty. His death was occasioned by the malignant Typhus Fever, which has for some time prevailed in that institution. He met the approach of death in great resignation, and died in the faith of the gospel, which for many years he had professed and adorned; leaving behind him a wide circle of relations and friends to lament his untimely departure. His attainments as a scholar were remarka-ble, and much of his active and useful life was passed in the instruction of youth in classical and other branches of education.

Thomas L. Lane, in Rutland, in Worcestershire, on the afternoon of the 5th inst. Doctor J. Howe.

*Attributed to extreme heat and taking cold water.*

**ATHENAEUM:**

**DR. SPIRIT. OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINE.**


Published on the 1st and 15th of every month.
OBSERVATIONS.

LECTURES ON PHRENOLOGY.

RECENTLY DELIVERED IN LONDON, BY DR SPURZHEIM.

THE ORGAN OF AMATiveness.

If we examine the cerebellum of man at different periods of his life, we shall find that it does not bear the same proportions to the other parts of the brain. Children have the little brain exceedingly small in proportion to the other part of the brain. If you wish to ascertain this, examine the neck of the child between the two ears, and you will be sure that it is so, without being anatomists. If you examine that part of the head behind the ear, you will find a bony projection (the mastoid process of the temporal bone); and if you examine a little further up, towards the middle of the back part of the head, you will discover other projections, the cervical spine and tuberosity of the occipital bone, well down to an anatomist. Why are often asked, what organs are these? They have nothing at all to do with the figure of the brain; they are merely bony prominences for the attachment of muscles. There is a space, however, between the ears occupied by the little brain; hence the larger the development of the skull in this region, leaving the parts I have just mentioned entirely out of the question, the greater will be the mass of cerebellum internally. Examine the heads of children, and you will find this part of the head very flat, very little developed, and that indicates that the cerebellum is very small; indeed the cerebellum is much smaller in children than in adults, in proportion to the other parts of the brain. If you examine adults, you will find a very great difference in the projection hereabouts; you will see very few people with such a neck as this man (showing a specimen in which the occiput was a little developed). When I show you this (showing a cast in which the occiput was largely developed) will you not admit that the cerebellum is infinitely larger than in the other person? You see that in the one the cerebellum is very little developed, consequently the space between the ears posteriorly is narrow, whilst in the other the cerebellum is very large and the ears are widely separated. Hence it is a fact, and we must always begin with facts, that the cerebellum is not proportionate to the rest of the brain in different periods of life and in different individuals, adults of the same age. You will find, in infancy, this part of the brain small; it increases in size as it grows, and even in adults, when it is supposed to have reached its full development, you will find it in some very prominent and in others very defective. Carry your examinations further into nature, and you will find that the heads of males are generally larger than the heads of females. It is said, the cerebrum of males is also larger; hence it must be the case with their cerebellum, but it is no such thing. The size of the cerebellum bears no determined proportion to the size of the head; you may see a man with a very large head and a small cerebellum, whilst a woman, with a small brain, will have a larger cerebellum in proportion than the former. If you have opportunities of seeing different nations, you will find great varieties in the shape of the head as regards this particular part, and I hope that travellers who go into remote parts of the inhabited world, who see pebbles, and shells, and animals, but that they will attend to the mental development of the inhabitants, and observe the configurations of their heads, by which they would do a great benefit to phrenology. Many pathological facts have been noticed which concur to point out the function of this part, and if any one will take the trouble to observe and reflect on it for himself, he will soon be convinced that the feelings to which this cerebral part gives rise are such as are usually ascribed to the influence of capillus. I shall speak of the function of the posterior part of the brain, of the posterior lobe, as it is termed by anatomists.

PHILOPHROGENITY.

We shall find that nature has given a peculiar feeling to take care of the offspring. Such a feeling has never hitherto, in philosophy, been considered as a primitive or fundamental power, but it is acknowledged to be so by phrenologists, although by other persons it has been ascribed to various causes. Some say that parents take care of their offspring from a sense of duty; but can you admit that cause to exist in animals? The degree of feeling shown by the mammiferous animals in taking care of their young ones is very great. Will you admit the operation of a moral cause in them? Certainly not. I would ask any mother, who is extremely attached to her children, whether she is so from reasoning or reflection, or whether she feels this by a strong impulse? whether she does so naturally? This degree of feeling I know is not always alike, it varies in individuals; some spoil their children by excessive fondness, whilst others treat them so much in care of them as is necessary, and no more. Some animals take little care of their young, others a great deal of care, with some animals the female takes the greatest care and the male does not take any; whilst among others the attention paid to the offspring is alike by the male and female. Do such differences occur without a cause?—can phrenology explain these causes? In the last lecture I called your attention to various reasons which must lead us to consider some of the manifestations as primitive or fundamental. Now if you find a particular manifestation in one species and not in another; if, for example, you see some animals who take little or no care of their offspring, whilst others will die to protect them, will you not at least that great differences exist? Look at the domestic female birds; try to take away any of their young ones, and see what they will do, whilst the male birds care nothing about them. Foxes of both sexes take care of their young, and will carry them in their mouth to a place of safety, whilst in dogs the male pays no attention whatever to them. However, it may be laid down as a rule, that the females are much more attached to the offspring than males; in circumstances of danger, the male will run away much sooner than the female. If we consider our own species, we may say that the mother takes most care of the offspring, the father or the mother? I believe that if fathers did not pay more attention than fathers that many children would die. Some women find the greatest delight in nurturing their offspring. I asked a poor woman once whether she took any pleasure in her children, and she said, “Sir, it is my only pleasure.” We may observe how careful nature is in thus giving such feelings, and connecting pleasure with the execution of labor.

Now if you will examine the organization in animals, in women and in men, you will find a positive proportion between the cerebral part I speak of and these peculiar feelings. This is certain, and I can say with confidence, that if you see an individual who has the cerebral part here extremely large, you may depend upon it that such a person is fond of his offspring. (Casts were shown in which this organ was very large, and contrasted with others in which it was very small.) Now if you see an individual with the part contracted and flat, as it is here, (showing a cast), such a person may take care of children from duty, from the operation of a moral cause, I grant that, but it will be troublesome to him. There is a great difference between doing any thing from a mere sense of duty, and doing it from a natural inclination; the one is not so agreeable to the individual as the other. If you examine comparatively both sexes of our species, you may depend upon it then, this cerebral part is much more developed in women than in men. I stated from the beginning, that the heads of females are more elongated than those of men, if we come to particulars, we shall find that the interior lobes are more contracted, whilst the posterior are elongated. (Dr S. then repeated the distinction which he before made, on the little importance of particular bumps, when compared to the general development). If you observe an individual who is fond of being with children, and that children like to come around him, for they soon learn to distinguish those who love them, or who take a pleasure in raising young animals, you will be sure to find this part well developed, viz. the posterior lobe of the brain. If you know any person who has felt great grief at the loss of children, you may be sure that in such this part is large. I have never met with an exception. Multiply your observations, and you will find in different nations, that some nations are, in a general way, father of their offspring than others; the males of some nations are more fond of offspring than the males of other nations, and if you look to the heads of both sexes in such nations, you will find little difference between the development of this part in the female and male.

It is certain that some angry and cruel tribes are very fond of their children, and even among
savage and fierce people, as the Caribs, who even devour their prisoners, yet the love of off-
going is strong in them, and you will find this part of the head the organ of this feeling largely developed, some Carib skulls were then shown.) The lecturer repeated his observations respecting the diversity in the degree of this feeling shown by animals and mankind; and that in nations, in sexes, and in individus, the strength of the feeling was always found in an exact ratio to the degree of development of this cerebral part. We have also, continued Dr. S., pathological facts in confirmation of our assertions. It has been observed, that persons who have had great development of this part have become deranged, and during their insanit-
y, the feeling of attachment to children has been remarkably prominent. Here is a cast of a poor woman who was separated from her children; she was insane, and lodged in a poor house. Mr. Deville saw her, and observed that this part of the head was very large, and also that the external surface of the head over this part felt very warm; and that is a thing which may frequently be observed, and this poor woman was continually talking of her children. I have said before that we prefer breadth to mere elongation, for when there is surrounding develop-
ment, you find more activity, more intensity of any power, than when an organ is merely elongated.

We know there is great difference between activity and intensity of any power. You may ob-
serve persons very fond of music, they like continually to hear music, but they have not sufficient intensity of any power to become deep muscians, they remain shallow in the know-
ledge of music. Children have great activity of the muscles, but have they the power to lift great weights? Other persons are fond of rea-
soning on a subject; they reason and reason, and never arrive at a conclusion; they have not ac-
tivity of mind enough to follow up the reasoning, and the larger in general you find this or-
gan, the better qualified is the person to con-
centrate the other powers on a given subject; when such people work, they work with great intensity, and with a comprehensive view of the subject.

(To be continued.)

STRONG BEER.

This is strictly an Englishman’s drink, and by far the most wholesome of any fermented beverage which has ever been offered for sale. It is now becoming an important article in families, and it is believed could be encouraged by wholly interdicting the use of spirituous liquors, the moral condition of the whole nation would be meliorated. Never were the laboring people, in any country, more completely a community of drunk-
ards, than in some sections of the United States. We have such an intolerable hatred to every thing approx-
imating intemperance, that we almost lose our temper by simply writing the word. There was a time in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when rum and brandy were sold by the ounce, by apothecaries, as a medicine—and a tea-spoon full was considered a dose, by all the regular physicians. What would those and learned men, virtu, gravus et docti, say, were they to see a man and his wife, in these days of dissipation, swallow-
ing down two gills a piece, over a surloin of mutton, to facilitate digestion! Let laborers have strong beer, not too strong neither, and those who do nothing, would be infinitely better off to use it. Beer strengthens the system; gives activity to the chylepo-
tic visera; promotes the secretsions, and ensures a clear mind. There is such a thing as abusing the use of this valuable article, but it will require an immense-
ly longer period to produce mania a potu, by malt beer than by copious or urgent spirit. We can form a very correct opinion of a man’s importance in society by watching his movements at a bar-room. A discreet, sober, business man, calls for a simple glass of beer; the man who earns his daily bread by the sweat of his brow, pays four pence for a glass of rum, while his disconsolate wife is wearing herself into the grave to save as much at home; the coxcomb calls for a whole bottle of wine, and if he wishes to make an im-
posing appearance before his inferiors, takes a second of champaign; the common every day business man takes a dram at nine, eleven and four, and the man of no business at all, drinks the whole time. Encourage the general use of beer, and drunkards will diminish, tipping will go out of fashion, and health and family happiness will abound where wretchedness and misery have long been predominant.

DULL TIMES FOR DOCTORS.

This is the general complaint among physicians.—There is no prevailing epidemic, and what is better yet, there is no prospect of any. We have lately been on a tour through the country and have taken particular pains to ascertain whether there is anything like a prospect of any prevailing disease, the present season; and there is none. Thus far, in town and country, there has never been a more general period of health, in the United States, than since the commencement of 1825. The faculty say it is distressingly healthy!

We beg, however, not to be understood that the work of death has been suspended. Oh! no—people are dying daily, as at former periods, by nearly every sort of ill but venerable old age. Men will drink more than is necessary, notwithstanding the destruction it makes with their constitutions, and women cannot be fashionable without being skewered up in whale-
bone. This business of queening thirst makes shocking destruction in the world; still it is very ungentle not to conform to the fashion—so some thousands of new drunkards are manufactured yearly, who might otherwise be the first rate of useful citizens. A medical gentleman has been prophesying a great mortality, not long hence, which will be excessively confined to young ladies. The first approach of this alarming mal-
ady may be known by vesticorous breathing, after the slightest exercise; sudden fainting fits at church; a pale face; and nothing at all like an appetite. The preventive measures to be adopted by those who may now be suffering from the like embarrassments, consists altogether in giving freedom to the respiratory organs; and this can only be done by wearing loose flowing dresses, at the same time their stomachers are used for heating a bath, by five o’clock in the morning.

How the times have changed within a few years! There is now nothing more pleasing, nor more in vogue, than to be in ill health—because it sounds well, and makes people talk; so away they go to the springs, and put their ankles out of joint in waltzing; when, in fact, at home, it required a servant to draw their stockings on.—Health and happiness have been at war ever since the revolution: if one is sick, why then there is leisure to enjoy friends, visit Saratoga, Niagara, Mount Holyoke, and forty other places. Red cheeks, a sound stomach, and industry, are poor recommendations in a wife—they are so masculine; and pray what is more vulgar, in any thing like a man, than to hear him posi-
tively declare, in the very face and eyes of well bred people, that he never had the dyspepsia, when it is all the go! In this age of refinement, if persons desire to ride, they must lie in bed; turn noon into midnight; sigh without pain; take advice, and neither follow nor pay for it; take a footman; take a cold every time the wind blows cast; take a jaunt and jam, somewhere, to wear time away; take a few compliments; take tea—
and that is taking time by the forelock in eighteen and twenty-five.

It is all nonsense to talk about turning such people from their bad habits; they will just as soon submit to the operation of being turned inside out, as to live sober quiet lives. Dissipation keeps one busily em-
ployed, besides affording a vast deal of company; and who does not like to keep something going on, even if it goes right wrong?

PROSECUTION.

The editor of the Lancet, a weekly journal of medi-
cine published in London, who was prosecuted in March last, for a libel on one of the Surgeons of St Thomas’ Hospital, was again prosecuted the 21st of May, by Mr. Abernethy, for publishing his lectures, which were taken down by a reporter, as fast as delivered. This last case, has not yet been decided, but we have no doubt, let it terminate as it may, the editor, by publish-
ing the trial, as in the other prosecution, will absolu-
tely make money in his pocket, besides giving the plaintiff a professional drubbing, which will require whole years to recover from. The celebrated Dr. Arm-
strong has also been to the chancellor with a complaint against this caustic editor—and tells a pitiful story about the injury he shall sustain if his lectures are published—as he gets his daily bread by reading them to medical pupils. If a man possesses no more sense than all this comes to, and supposes himself wronged by a measure which is directly calculated to establish his fame,—let him bite his own lips in silence. Prievee! make a direct tax upon your brain—and if it is as spongy as we are inclined to believe it, his Majesty’s Judges will grant the proper damages.

The impositions practiced upon medical students in

some of the London Hospitals, by cynical lecture-read-
ers, should have a powerful influence in keeping those American gentlemen, who would be the knowing ones, in their own country, where the advantages of becom-
ing learned and distinguished in the profession, are as great at this time, as they are in England.

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS.

A little physician, some where in the county of Frank-
lin, Mass. has recently made a bold effort to abuse us, in relation to an article which appeared in this journal, some few weeks ago; the attack, however, is very un-
just, as well as very faint. Before he writes again on a subject of which he is entirely ignorant,—the arteries of the human body, it might be well to consult one of his better informed neighbours.

We know it is literally impossible to please every body, and above all things it is quite out of our line of business to play with a puppy. Our object has invari-
ably been to bring the merits of our professional brethren before the public, and at the same time sub-
serve the cause of medical science. Since the com-
 mencement of the Intelligencer, we have suffered many personal invidities for the inaccuracies of others, and many severe trials when we were wholly blameless: this
is the common fortune of editors; but it is a kind of so- 
lace to know the fact, that flies invariably die in autumn.

We were disposed to retort in the same strain of 
veritisation, and say that this little fellow is trying to 
"court notoriety," and establish a four-mile profession-
al reputation within the boundaries of Greenfield, it 
would only diminish his exceedingly limited practice, 
and blast the first budding of neighborhood confidence. 
we are therefore inclined to be merciful. There is a 
spirit of groveling meanness in such irritable effusions 
as were thrown at our doors, by this unqualified critic 
unbecoming a man who makes pretensions to medi-
cation—should at least desire the esteem of his 
equals. There is no eminence like that which arises 
from good will and philanthropy; no happiness that 
equals a clear conscience, nor a misery more intolerable 
than practical envy.

CANINE MADNESS.

EXTRACTS FROM L. F. TROLLET'S WORK ON THIS 
DISEASE.

(Concluded from page 4.)

The duration of life after the appearance of 
the hydrophobia varies from twenty-four or 
thirty-six hours, to three, four, or five days.

Davytrosev, whose case was described 
great, states, that, in ten cases which he exam-
ined, the results were uniformly inflammation, 
and gangrene of different parts of the al-
imentary canal. In one of the cases mentioned 
by Morgagni, the internal membrane of the 
upper part of the oesophagus, the whole inner 
surface of the pharynx, larynx, and windpipe, 
were of a livid red color, approaching to a state 
of gangrene; and the pharynx, even to the 
posterior openings of the nostrils, was filled with 
frothy mucous of a greenish yellow color. The 
fauces, oesophagus, and trachea, were inflamed 
in most of the cases examined by this author, 
but this was not universal. The mucous mem-
branes of the larynx, trachea and bronchia 
present more constant appearances of vasculari-
ty, according to Parry and Trollet; the last of 
whom asserts that, in his cases, the organs of 
respiration were most uniformly affected, par-
cularly the bronchia, which, as he imagines, 
secrete the foamy liquid that issues from the 
mouth. He even declares that the saliva is not 
infectious, and that it is only the fluid secreted 
by the lining membrane of the bronchia that is 
capable of communicating the disease. Some 
authors assert that the salivary glands are al-
ways enlarged and in a state of inflammation; 
others, on the contrary, that they never are, 
and of this opinion is Moussier Trollet. In most 
cases there is increased vascularity of the dura 
and pia mater, and injection of the vessels of the 
brain; more recently, similar appearances have 
been observed in the spinal cord and its mem-
branes. Moussier Dupuy, of the veterinary 
school at Aifort, who has, perhaps, had greater 
opportunities of studying the diseases of animals 
than any man living (and few men have made a 
better use of their opportunities) has almost uni-
formly found the spinal cord softened, dilatent, 
and of a deep yellow color, especially in its low-
er portion. The dura mater covering it was in-
jected, and inclosed a greater quantity of serum 
than is usual. Larrey found the brain dense 
and firm, and the neurala of the nerves, aris-
ing from the medulla oblongata, tinged at their 
origins of a pink color. Lastly, the only cir-

stance on which almost all authors are 
agreed is, that the bodies of persons dying of 
this disease run very rapidly into putrefaction.

At Marochetti, of Moscow, amongst the 
cases where medical treatment has not been 
early applied, small knots appear under the 
tongue, at the openings of the ducts of the sub-
maxillary glands, which are situated at each side 
of the tongue string; and that, by the use of a 
probe, a fluctuating fluid, which is the hydro-
phobia poision, may be perceived. On one occa-
sion, fifteen persons bit by a mad dog applied 
for cure on the same day, and the small knots 
which he mentions were observed in twelve of 
them; and on another, the treatment of twenty-
seven persons, in nine months, by Jegoroff and 
six children, was confided to him, and the small 
knots occurred in nineteen of them; in those 
the most bitten on the third day, in others on 
the fifth, seventh and ninth days, and in one 
woman, who had been bitten but very superficially 
in the leg, only on the twenty-first day. Thus 
the usual time of their appearance seems to be 
within the third and ninth days after the bite.

Dr Armstron mentions in his excellent lectures 
on the theory and practice of physic, that a 
man who has recently been bitten by a 
dog, has frequently seen the tumours, and that 
after their removal in the manner recommended 
by Marochetti, the disease has never occurred. An 
English physician, who has made numerous inqui-
ries among the peasantry of Russia and Persia, 
where be has travelled a great deal, was also 
uniformly assured of the same fact. A veteri-
nary surgeon of some eminence in London, 
who has examined many dogs laboring under hydro-
phobia, both during live and after death, has 
ever observed any thing resembling the appear-
ances described by Marochetti; but it is stated 
in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, 
from which the above account of Marochetti's 
observations has been extracted, that they were 
found in a mad dog in Westphalia, in 1822.

The means of prevention employed by Maro-
chetti, consisted in carefully examining the 
mouth once or twice a day, and as soon as these 
knots or pustules appeared, they were opened 
and cauterized with a red hot needle, after 
which the patient gaggled, or rather washed 
his mouth with viz. nine men, eleven of the genera latera 
torriciana. If they are not opened within 24 
hours after their formation, the poison is reab-
sorbed into the body, and the patient is lost be-
yond the power of cure. All those of the first 
experiment, fourteen in number, two of whom 
bad no knots, were dismissed cured, at the end 
of six weeks, during which period they also 
drank the decoction. They were all sound and 
well three years afterwards, when seen by Maro-
chetti. All the twenty-six cases mentioned af-
terwards, recovered under the same treatment.

It is well worth inquiry whether the cure is not 
effected by opening and cauterizing the pustules, 
without the decoction of broom having any 
influence over the disease.

When a bite has been inflicted by a suspected 
animal, the first thing to be done is, to wash 
the part very freely with water, which should at 
first be cold, and the the temperature of it may 
be gradually raised. This must be done as soon 
as possible, and should be continued for some 
time. For this purpose pure water is prefera-
tible to lotions of any kind, whether salt water, 
wine and water, or any thing else; and it has 
the decided advantage over all these, that it is 
generally, if not always, close at hand. It would 
seem also an improvement over Marochetti's 
suggestion, to direct upon the part by means of a pump, 
a common tea-kettle or a syringe. Some have 
recommended suction with the mouth, but as there 
are cases on record, where the mere application 
of the poison to the lips appears to have been 
followed by the disease, this practice must be 
considered rather dangerous. A cupping glass 
might be applied over the part with the same 
effect. These measures, however, are only to 
follow during the interval which must elapse 
between the bite and the application of the sur-
geon, who should immediately proceed to the 
excision of the part, if this be practicable. 
This operation must be performed with freedom; 
every part with which the dog's teeth may have 
removed, in contact, should be most carefully 
removed for, the smallest portion left might retain 
sufficient of the poison for the production of 
the disease. Excision should not be neglected, mere-
ly because a few hours may have elapsed be-
fore a surgeon can be procured; it should be 
put in execution at a much later period, if it be 
possible that the dog was afflicted with the dis-
ese, even then it is better to saw off the arm or 
the leg, than to allow the disease to spread 
through the body by the circulation of the blood.

Some time after the tidiness of the patient, or his 
aversion to the use of the knife, is such as not to 
allow of its employment, and then it is better to 
apply caustics than to do nothing. Those most 
usually employed are the lunar caustic or nitrate 
of silver, the caustic alkali, and the butter 
or muriate of antimony. There is, however, this 
great objection to their employment, that we 
cannot see how far their action extends,
preventatives of the disease, such as mercury, volatile alkali, and many others, we have no faith in any. They are generally if not always useless, as they tend to full the patient into a false security, to neglect of a certain measure, excision, their employment cannot be strongly discouraged.

VARITIES.

GUY’S HOSPITAL.—Sir Astley Cooper has at length resigned the situation which he has so many years filled, with honor to himself and with edification to the nation. We should feel sorry in recording this circumstance if we thought that Sir Astley had wholly withdrawn himself from the Borough school; this, however, we are glad to learn, is not the case; a consulting surgeon he will still continue to visit Guy’s, and that as frequently, in all probability, as he has of late been enabled to do. His occasional presence will tend to consolidate and support the interests of a school which for surgery, justly ranks first in the United Kingdom, and we shall not, perhaps, be saying too much, if we express our conviction, that the talent at present is fully sufficient to support the high character to which that school has already attained.

The resignation of the office of Surgeon has been made in favor of Mr Bransby Cooper, Sir Astley’s nephew. As a surgeon, we know very little of Mr Bransby, but we understand, from his name, that he is the son of the Surgeon who has resigned. We should not expect to find him such, and we hope that he will support the reputation attached to the name of Cooper. We shall not shut our eyes to the merits of individuals, or wink at the defects of others, but shall continue to do as we have hitherto done, fearlessly to expose or commend when and whom we consider necessary.

Our reports from the principal London Hospitals will be the less interesting to us, that they have latterly been, and in all our intercourse with these institutions we shall adapt, as our motto, "In omnibus serius.

INSANITY.—Dr Morrison, of London, has just published the outlines of a course of lectures on insanity. Since the days of Gauthier, the profession have complained for the want of lectures on the mind. The lectures of Dr Morrison, are intended to remedy this most evident and lamentable defect in a medical education, and we heartily wish him success, because we are fully convinced he will do more good by his labors than have been subject to insinuating, in a medical, moral, and philosophical point of view. His outlines, which we have read, and which induces us to insert this notice, is likely to lead to success in the treatment of mental complaints.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—This interesting institution is on the eve of being broken up, in consequence of a quarrel which exists among the leading members. We have received the request of the gentlemen to recall our notice to the circumstance, up to May 28th, which have recently been given before the members, and also Dr Spurzheim’s lectures on Phrenology, which we commence publishing this day, and Dr Armstrong’s lectures on Diseases—up to the same date, which we intend reprinting next week. Both of the last mentioned gentlemen, are now lecturing in London.

MANŒUVRE.—A certain Mr South was appointed a surgeon in Guy’s Hospital, on the 21st of May, which was brought about by the influence of a Miss Whitehead, much against the good feeling of the House. It is said that things are managed at the London Charity Institutions, at present, pretty much as they are in some particular sections of the United States. The relation of teacher and pupil is rather the same as in the lawful line of family connections, than for the relief of the half-blind and the blind. Public offices of this kind should be open to all men of talents, and the public ought not to tolerate such unreasoning prejudices, as have a tendency to monopolize all the places and offices.

NEEDLE IN THE STOMACH.—A workman lately applied to a surgeon at Allen, complaining of an uneasy pain in the region of the stomach, which had continued, for several weeks, and which had lately been confined to one spot. After a narrow examination, a distinct though deeply seated, and was felt, as if a pointed needle had penetrated the stomach. On the following morning, a pain was felt very acutely, and the point of something more distinctly felt; when the surgeon cut down upon it and extracted a sharp needle, exactly such as he had used before for its being there. The same surgeon had cut a large needle out of a man’s arm, about one year ago, which the patient had swallowed eleven years before.

NEEDLES.—A young lady at Lowestoft, who had been afflicted for many years, and whose complaint baffled the skill of her medical attendant, was sometimes cured and sometimes made worse. A needle which protruded through her chest, which was soon followed by four more of various sizes, with the exception of one, which made its appearance at the right side, and which was of a curious shape and size, was next produced, and he says, "Receipts for the above complaints may be had at reasonable prices."

Quackery.—The Rev. Samuel Whitfield, says that "a Physician, in Rochester, calls on all persons to come to him, and at a single lesson, he can give such information and such receipts, as will enable every man to arrange his business to its best advantage."

We have several other appointments which will also be made, in consequence of the long-continued neglect of Dr Smith.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending July 23d; from the Health-Office Returns. July 16.—Ezra Curtis, 47; Mary Welsh, 41. July 17th.—John Fady, 33; Ellen Maria Patterson Shaw, 18 mo.; Abigail Larin, 12 mo.; Rebecca W. Waugh, 8 weeks; Thomas Hawks, 19 mo.; Sarah C. Welch, 29. July 18th.—William W. Lawlor, 16 mo.; Ticknor, 19 days; Sarah L. Smith, 16; Harriet M. Lewis, 24; Nancy Trumbull, 19 mo. July 19th.—William Henry Davis, 11. July 20th.—Elizabeth Turner, 6; her son, 3 mo.; Dr F. C. Gaubias, 29; William Shattuck, 30; Tabitha Owens, 53; Margaret Pearson, 78. July 21st.—John Roberts; Michael Kennedy, 33; Eliza Garnet Pearson, 3 mo.; Mary Ann Chael, 10 mo.; Thomas Doak, 48; Lemuel B. Greenwood, 10 mo.; Samuel Mannor, jr. 11 mo.; Eliza Little, 3 mo.; Mary Folson Ford, 5 mo.; Johnerry, 70. July 22nd.—Caroline Johnson Moore, 2 1/2; Mary Parks, 30; Lucy Matilda Rix, 2; Patrick McNerny, 48. July 23rd.—Elizabeth R. Winthrop, 56; William Thornton, 6; Grimes.

Leather.—1.—Consuption, 2.—Liver Complaint, 1.—Cholera Infantum, 2.—Stillborn, 2.—Hooping-Cough, 1.—Sudden, 3.—Inflammatory Fever, 1.—Cancer of the Breast, 1.—Dropsy in the Head, 2.—Gravel, 1.—Malaria, 1.—Dysentery, 1.—Fever, 1.—Dysentery, 1.—Cholera Morbus, 1.—Long Fever, 1.—Infantile, 1.—Croup, 1.—Typhus Fever, 1.—Drowned, 2.—Extreme Heat, 2.

Died.—At Bradford, 12th inst. Warren Arbot, M. D. aged 32. At an early age this gentleman commenced study with a view to the ministry. His constitution would not bear the sedentary occupation; and, after a severe illness, occasioned by his close application, he took a journey to Charleston, S. C. where his health was completely restored. Returning then to his studies, he was master of all the branches of knowledge. A sensible of our nature seemed to invite him, he engaged in the study of medicine; and having completed his term with Dr Bigelow, he began practice in this city with the brightest prospect of success. How gratifying that project—in a pursuit which hourly gives an opportunity to exercise the gentle feelings of humanity towards his suffering fellow beings! How gratifying to him, who has risen above the weak and giddy, to be able to see his early strickn form gradually wasted; from a seemingly slight cause; and after enduring for eight months much distress, alleviated only by the attentions of an affectionate wife, the sympathies of friends—and by his unclouded faith in the promises of God—he died.

In Glasgow, Scotland, John Bahn, M. D. 51.
OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR. ROGET'S EIGHTH LECTURE.

The Lectures of this Institution, which, as usual, had been suspended during Easter and the preceding week, having been resumed, Dr. Roget, in his Eighth Lecture, entered upon the subject of Vision, the most perfect and most exalted of all our external senses. Whether we consider the infinite multitude of objects with which it renders us acquainted, the immense range of its operation, and the refined intellectual character of its perceptions; or whether we examine the exquisite apparatus, and admirable combination of means by which such important purposes are accomplished, we find, at every step of our inquiries relative to this sense, the mind being led to which philosophical investigation, and the most fertile theme of admiration and gratitude.

The object of this sense is to convey to animals a knowledge of the presence and situation, as well as the color of external and distant objects, by means of the light which these objects are sending off either spontaneously, or by reflection from other bodies. There is only one part of the nervous system so organized as to be capable of being affected by light, and of con- veying to the sensorium the impression of light; a peculiar delicacy of construction in the nervous matter being requisite for conferring this power. It would appear that in some of the tribes belonging to the lowest orders of the animal kingdom, such as the Hydra Actinaria, and other soft Zoophytes, that the skin, or surface of the body, possesses some degree of sensibility to light; for these animals show by their movements that they feel its influence, as they place themselves always on that side of the vessel containing them, on which the light shines. After some remarks on the organs of Vision in the inferior tribes of annulose animals, Dr. Roget observed, that they attained their full development only in the higher classes of vertebrated animals.

That portion of the nervous system which is adapted to receive the impressions of the rays of light, is a thin and delicate expansion of the optic nerve, called the Retina. But if the rays of light which reach the eye from surrounding objects, were simply admitted to the retina, in the state in which they arrived, it is evident that the only perception which could be communicated to the mind by an organ so constructed, would be a vague impression of the total quantity of light diffused in the opposite hemisphere. But this does not properly constitute Vision. In order that the presence of a particular object in a particular direction from the eye, may be recognized, it is necessary that the light, which comes from it, shall produce exclusively its impression upon some particular part of the retina. If the light coming from any other object were allowed to act at the same time upon that point, the two effects would interfere with one another, and a confused impression would result. Thus the objects in a room are all sending light to a sheet of white paper placed on the floor; but the light, thus equally spread over its surface, allows no means of distinguishing the different sources from which it proceeds; or, in other words, ascertaining the nature, figures, situations, and colors of the objects themselves. Hence, however sensible the skin of the polypus may be to light, it is incapable of itself, of accomplishing the purposes of Vision.

We might suppose it a problem proposed to us to contrive an apparatus, by which, availing ourselves of the known properties of light, all the rays which proceed from the respective points of the object to be viewed, and which meet the eye, shall be concentrated upon separate points of the retina, and thus form a faithful delineation, or minute picture, as it were, of the external scene. The simplest mode of accomplishing the proposed end would be to admit only one ray proceeding directly from that part of the object which is to be depicted, and to exclude all the other rays. But by thus limiting the illumination of each point of the retina to the effect of a single ray, the image produced would be extremely faint. The only mode of securing distinctness of image with an increase of light, is to collect pencils of rays into separate foci; a purpose which may be effected by the refraction they undergo when passing through the surfaces of media of different densities.

The mathematical conditions of the law of optical refraction, and the application of this law to the circumstances of the present problem, were then stated, and illustrated by various appropriate diagrams. The operation of a single and double convex lens on pencils of parallel rays, was traced; and the mode in which it may be made to produce such an image as that which was the object of search, was pointed out and described. The various considerations connected to the Camera Obscura, both in the immediate object it has to accomplish, and the principle on which it is constructed, but it was at the same time shown to be an infinitely more perfect machine than any which human art could achieve.

Dr. Roget proceeded to give a detailed account of the structure of the human eye, with the assistance of drawings, in which every part of that delicate organ was delineated upon a very enlarged scale. The form, texture, and uses of the different membranes, or coats of the eye, as they are termed, were severally described. These coats consist of the Sclerotic, Cornea, Choroides, Tunica Rubeaclara, Funimentum Nigrosum, and Retina. The transparent media, by which the necessary refractions of the rays of light, are affected, are termed the humors of the eye, and consist of the Vitreous humor, Crystalline lens, and aqueous humor. The former is contained in a separate investing membrane, or capsule, which is termed the Membrana Hyaleana. The lens has also, its separate capsule, which, at its circumference, forms, together with the reflected membranous hyaloidea, a thick interest, which has received the name of the Canal of Petit, by whom it was discovered. The aqueous humor is divided into two chambers by the Iris, of which the central perforation constitutes the Pupil. The structure of this part of the eye, and the theories connected with its movements were particularly explained; as also the singular fact of a membrane existing in the young animal which is spread across the pupil, and is known by the name of the Membrana Pulpillaris; and which has at various periods occupied the attention of the most eminent anatomists. The yellow spot and central foramen, which is met with in the retina, in the axis of the eye, was also pointed out, as well as the Poleus Opticus at the termination of the optic nerve, for the purpose of giving passage to the central artery of the eye. The connexions of the lens with the surrounding parts, by means of the ciliary process and muscular ligament, were particularly pointed out.

The different organs which surround the ball of the eye, and which are provided for the purpose of motion, of defence, and of lubrication, were next described. The six muscles belonging to the globe itself, namely, four straight and two oblique muscles; the structure of the eyelids, the carillage which preserves their shape, the muscles by which they are moved, the situation of the lachrymal gland and of its ducts, were described. The motions of the eye are produced by the spread over the surface of the cornea, in which they are directed towards the inner corner of the eye, by the closing of the eyelids, absorbed by the puncta lachrymalia, and conducted into the lachrymal sac, which opens into the cavity of the nostrils, were severally pointed out. The investigations relating to the more delicate adjustments which are provided for securing the accurate conveyance of the rays in an exact point of the retina, were deferred till the next Lecture; and Dr. Roget concluded by noticing various considerations calculated to increase our admiration at the refined art displayed in the construction of so elaborate an instrument as the eye, adapted to so exquisite a faculty as that of Sight, and one to which we are indebted for so large a portion of our intellectual and sensitive existence.

LECTURES ON PHRENOLOGY.

RECENTLY DELIVERED IN LONDON, BY DR. SPURZHEIM.

(Continued from page 46.)

INHABITIVENESS.

We come now to another power, and there have been many discussions about this favorite power. There are some young animals which look as soon as born for certain habitations; a young duck, hatched under a hen, that has never seen the water, runs to the water. People say that animals go to certain places to feed by instinct, and that a young duck runs into the water by instinct, which acts as a compelling influence; but must they not have a peculiar instinct to run into water? The hen which has hatched the young ducks, calls them to be by peculiar expressions, and runs after them to keep them from the water, yet the young ducks go; if you go further into nature, you find that animals have a constant tendency to go into cer-
tain places, whatever you may do to prevent them; they like to feed and to remain in certain regions. Some persons say, how is it possible to form this feeling into a power, but the power that is the feeling? Lord's make a few general observations on this subject. Circumstances are, in some systems of philosophy, considered the basis of a power; it is said, look at a man of talent who is lazy, he finds himself in misery, and then he begins to work. In short, it has been said, that external circumstances are the causes of the individual powers, but in phrenology, we contend that circumstances never produce the powers; they may excite, but they can never produce them. In nature, circumstances may favor the action of a power, but the power itself exists independent of the circumstances. I should like to know whether I am hungry because food is put on the table before me, or whether I am hungry from an internal cause. I am sure that if misery would produce talents, they would not be so scarce. (Laugh.) If one man has a talent for music, and another for mathematics, and a third for mechanical arts, give them equal opportunities, and you will find that each will excel according to the talent which he possesses, now how can you explain this by a reference to circumstances? In phrenology, we admit the influence of circumstances; it is a fundamental consideration in education, that they very much improve the powers, and excite the powers, and therefore education is most useful; we know that opposition does a great deal of good, but the power must be there to improve by it.

With regard to the choice of situations, we see that some animals choose very high mountains, others choose the plains; some birds choose the trees, some the rocks or the ground. The chamois and the wild goat love the mountains, and it is said they do so because they find their food there, but they come lower down to feed. The stormign, a bird found on the hills of Scotland, inhabits the highest and most barren parts of the mountain, but comes lower down to feed.

There are other animals which live on the land, yet like to take their food in the water to eat it, and then come to the land again. The young of those birds which build their nests in the upper parts of trees, will, when let loose from a cage in which they may have been hatched, fly to the tops of the trees. We see the most determinate action here, it is the feeling which dictates the choice of habitation, and therefore I have spoken of the internal power or propensities of inhabitiveness or the disposition which induces individuals to live in certain situations.

Some birds prefer always the lower part, or trunks of trees, as the nightingale, and the blackbird; others prefer living in the tops of trees. The hen likes to live on dry land, and the duck on the water, and we find a great difference in the organization of ducks and hens. In the chamois, which lives always on the most elevated ground he can reach, except when feeding, we find the upper part of the brain higher and much more developed than in the roe which lives in the valleys, and in all animals fond of physical elevations, we find this development. Even among rats, some are better pleased with the higher parts of the house, this is the case with the old English or blue rat, whilst the Norwegian rat or brown rat is most fond of the lower parts of the house; however, since the Norwegian rats have been imported, they have nearly destroyed the ancient inhabitants, and rendered it a question to what extent the present are to be considered.

We must consider this a fundamental question, as it is the question which influences him as can be regarded as fundamental. Phrenologists do not quite agree on this point, and I shall take the opportunity of mentioning such differences as occur among Phrenologists; because, although they may differ in opinion, they can never differ long on the essential points; they have only to refer to nature, we must hear what she says: Suppose now some phrenologists should ascribe the love of offspring to the tender feelings of the general, or say that persons who are fond of their children are kind to others, and feel a general sympathy for others; and that other phrenologists should ascribe the feeling to a particular organ, how are we to decide? You must go to nature. I would say, how comes it, if the love of offspring produces a general sympathy, that the Caribs, a very fine nation, who kill and eat each other, have not the finer feelings, because such people are passionately fond of their offspring? How is it that people of very rough manners to others yet love their offspring? We must go to nature, I repeat, and we shall have our differences removed, and the same with respect to this, No. 3, the part placed above the love of offspring. Some phrenologists have ascribed to this part concentration of the mind, and they wished to call it Concentrativeness, or the power which maintains one or two more powers in activity, when directed to a certain object. This is the proposition, Can it be supported? This is the question, Is it true? We must go to nature. I would first ask any one who would be inclined to speak of concentrativeness as a power, Is it a fundamental power? I am of opinion, that in order to be able to consider any power as fundamental, that it be such as can act of itself; but concentrativeness cannot act of itself. All the powers which I shall mention as fundamental powers, are such as can act singly. As regards concentration, you cannot perceive that a power can be operative without being able to act except in combination with other powers, such is the case with concentration. Besides, if you examine the heads of men who are capable of concentration, you will find them part large in some and small in others. Concentration of the mind then may take place without this development.

To return to the power I was speaking of, we find that some individuals are much attached to their home, their native place, and such people have this portion of the brain more developed than others. Some are miserable if they cannot return home; they may like to go abroad to see things, but they are sure to return again; and others cannot conceive how any person can like to go from home; such are sure to have the development here. There are some wandering of mankind who are never still, continually shifting from one place to another, attached to none; travellers are invited to observe whether in these there is a manifest defect in the development of this part. Some animals migrate, others never leave the neighbourhood in which they are brought up, and it is important to see whether such beings have this particular part much developed.

I will give you an idea to reflect on respecting this power, which is, whether it is a modified action of this power which leads some men to pursue agriculture? I put that as a question than an opinion; seeing that in nature certain being are disposed to certain actions, whether, as she has given a disposition to hunt, as among savages, and among others to lay up provision for the winter, to others a disposition to the arts and sciences, and others an attachment to places, perhaps to purposes connected with these places. Is not agriculture essential to mankind, and is there any thing which will point out a power which induces men to cultivate the country? We see that some children have great pleasure in gathering seeds; and they appear to take much pleasure in cultivating them. I hope that those who have studied phrenology will pay some attention to this point, to see whether there is not a disposition to live in certain places, as well as to show a love of offspring. With respect to the feeling of inhabitiveness being fundamental, I think I am almost sure of it. We may observe among animals peculiar attachment to certain places, and we see it in man. Men who have lived in cities and enjoyed every luxury which opulence could afford, have left them, and gone back to end their days among their native mountains.

### HORRIBLE DEPRAVATION OF TASTE.

The police at Paris have lately apprehended and imprisoned a man who had been in the habit of satisfying an unnatural appetite with food of the most disgusting description. Animal substances in a state of putrefaction, and even the human body itself, were regarded by this miserable being as very delicate morsels. He found his way into the burial-grounds, and with certain instruments succeeded in pulling out of the graves the bodies recently interred. What is still more extraordinary, he would feast himself upon the intestines in preference to the other parts of the body; and when he had thus regaled himself, he would proceed with the same material for a future meal. When interrogated on the subject of this dreadful depravity, he said that from a child he had been fond of what others called leathern food; and expressed his surprise that any one should blame him for a taste so natural. His answers to whatever questions were put to him were precise and rational, although there appeared at times a little incoherence in his manner. He acknowledged that he sometimes felt the greatest inclination to devour children, but that he did not proceed to injure them. He is at present incarcerated in the Bicêtre, for fear of the dreadful consequences which might result from his horrible propensities.

This report was communicated to the conductors of the Archives by Dr. Berthollet, therefore, its authenticity may be relied on.

### HEALTH OF JULY.

It is truly wonderful that the general health of all classes of people has been so good the past month, when we take into consideration the extreme heat of the atmosphere; but it demonstrates the truth of our prognostications in the health report of June, in which it was remarked that a high temperature is not so unfavorable to health, as when the weather is variable.
Although the sun has long been shining with intense brilliancy, and the fields are becoming parched for the want of dew and showers, gentle breezes are now beginning to spring up—the lofty forest trees are bowing to the air—the clouds are rolling through the sky, and those who boast of being weatherwise, are prophesying weather which will produce something like a sickness in the months of autumn.

During the month of July there has been no prevailing type of fever, no particular affections of the digestive organs, either among children or adults, and comparatively very few deaths, even in the dense population of our cities—excepting from accidents, the improper use of cold water, and the abuse of ardent spirits.

Such periods of uninterrupted health, however, cannot be expected to continue long in a country like this, where winds blow every way and every where.—As fruits become plentiful, children become victims of diseases of the bowels—but not so frequently in consequence of using it too jubilantly, as from being permitted to indulge their appetites with it when in a cruder state:—ripes fruit seldom injures any body; it was made for man, and a kind Providence has bestowed it upon us at that peculiar season, when, in fact, it is not only necessary, but when it is in its greatest perfection; and those who use it freely—if only ripened well—will generally enjoy the best health. Eastern nations have no such erroneous notions about fruit, as we have crept into the periphrases of our mothers and nurses; nor is there any evidence of its injurious effects on the health of individuals of any grade, in the West Indies, where the inhabitants could not subsist without it.

Apples, pears, peaches, melons, &c. should be served up on the table, every day, while they are good, and whenever, in our climate, they are no longer suitable, and would prove detrimental to health, by interrupting the ordinary functions of the system, nature invariably adumbrates to the.us, not only by lessening the abundance, but also by the diseases which are resulting from a continued use of them at improper times.—People are governed in this enlightened age, by art and arbitrary customs, rather than by that sage philosophy which results from reason and experience. It is ridiculous as well as provoking, in the estimation of those physicians who have a comprehensive view of the structure, habits, and constitution of organized beings,—and who have examined the machinery of man with a microscopic eye, and studied the diseases to which each portion of his beautiful and complicated fabric is liable, to hear those grave observations on airs and food, which have originated in ignorance, and which have been propagated from generation to generation, without truth and without judgment.

Acid drinks and acid fruits, the present and the ensuing months, are the real savates of health, and no prejudice should prevent their use. These should not be denied to children, when their appetite craves and their nature requires that, which nature ordained for their consumption.—Eat or be eaten is one of the first laws of animal life;—eat those things which were designed for food—but be temperate; and health will be promoted, strength will be accumulated, and a long and comfortable life may reasonably be anticipated.

Pulmonary consumption, that invidious disease, which is continually sweeping from existence the fairest flowers of earth, those interesting objects of our care, those solaces of man in woe and woe—women and often in the very morning of their days, when youth and beauty heighten all their innate charms, has often had an origin in some false management in diet. Women of delicate constitutions should habituate themselves to a variety of edibles; they should try to live on almost every thing which has a place in cookery, and suit their stomach, and its tone, however delicate, will soon acquire new and vigorous powers. Pain in the side, the invariable concomitant of some irregu-

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THE USE OF TEA.

There are as many opinions among physicians in relation to the use of tea, as there are stars in the milky way, and we are therefore in a state of perplexity in the outset—because our convictions will have but little influence where tea has many friends. Perhaps there is no one habit which has become so general in commercial nations, as tea-drinking, and although it has done no particular good in the world, we are not prepared to say, in direct terms, that it has been strictly injurious. It is no less strange than true, that almost every person, however peculiar the idiosyncrasy, can use tea; and whether it is actually loved or not, every body drinks it as a thing of course. There are many nervous affections which are unquestionably produced by excessive tea-drinking, and many chronic diseases and even mental disorders, aggravated by it, when the individual is far from suspecting the primary cause.

When we find such numbers of aged people, in the full enjoyment of health, who from the earliest periods of childhood have drank it constantly, and still are sipping down their favorite draught, there would scarcely seem a chance to raise an objection to a custom, as ancient as the Chinese monarchy;—but when, on the other hand, the mortality of young people, and particularly the untimely exit of such an astonishing number of youthful women as every changing year presents, by an infinite variety of diseases which were wholly unknown to the fathers of the healing art before the introduction of tea into Europe, is taken into consideration, we are led at once to suspect that tea has had, and still has, an agency in slaying thousands.

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TO OUR PATRONS.

There are fewer novelties taking place, at present, in the medical world, and the death of local medical intelligence is much greater, than we have noticed for many months. The hospitals present nothing interesting, as the operations, in this and other cities where our correspondents have visited, for nearly two months past have been trivial and unimportant. The medical periodicals all have rather a sombre appearance, and evidently show that the editors were not only strongly under the melting influence of a vertical sun, but were forced to strike off almost any thing in order to accomplish their engagements to the publishers.

We have on hand a rich collection of articles, gleaned from transatlantic publications, which we are systematizing and arranging according to the genius of the Intelligence, and shall endeavour to meet the expectations of our friends, in that particular, as soon as some previous articles, which have insensibly been accumulating, are disposed of in due form.

Health, happiness, and plenty, every where abound, and our virtuous brethren must unquestionably be the first to rejoice in such manifestations of goodness in the divine Author of our existence.

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REPORTS.

CURIOUS CASE OF INJURY OF THE SPINE.

J. H., aged 32, a muscular and rather robust man, was admitted into Naaman’s Ward, Guy’s Hospital, on the 13th of the last month.

He had been accustomed to work in the dock yards at Deptford, and about twelve months since, whilst engaged, with many others, in lifting a large piece of timber by a crane, he received a violent blow on his back, and immediately fell down, deprived of all power in the lower extremities. He was taken to a surgeon in the neighborhood, who directed, merely, that his head should be kept quiet, and sometimes after the accident must have sustained near the seat of the injury. In about seven months, the power of using the left leg gradually returned, but at present the patient has but little influence over the right, which is also very insensitive, particularly towards the foot; he can move the thigh a little from side to side, and can flex it very slightly, but cannot extend it, being obliged to push it back with his hand. There is a depression observable on the spine, about the first or second lumbar vertebra, and pressure made upon the joint gives pain. His health does not appear to have suffered much; his appetite is pretty good, his tongue clean, and his sleep sound and refreshing.

Since he has been in the hospital he has had another issue inserted, and has taken, occasionally, some aperient medicine. He is not confined to any particular position, and does not complain of any pain on turning from one side to the other. Sir Astley saw the case on Tuesday last, and expressed his opinion favorably as to the result, and at the same time favored the pupils with a recital of the case of fracture of the spine, which he has published in his work on Dislocations and Fractures: the case of the boy who, in attempting to lift a wheel, lost his balance, when the periphery of the wheel came with considerable force upon his back, which Sir Astley says it broke; the boy recovered the use of his limbs in about twelve months. This is the very case respecting which Mr Charles Bell has chosen to say so many harsh things; and because Sir Astley thought fit to say, that the boy broke his back, instead of saying that he sublimated his back, Mr Bell has let loose upon him all the cynical satire that he could venture to express.

Sir Astley, however, in the present case, has made a shrewd sort of prognosis; both the legs being pendulous about twelve months ago; in seven months after the accident the activity and motion of one leg returned, ergo, in another seven months the same good luck may happen to the other.—Lancet.

SUCCESSFUL USE OF IODINE IN A CASE OF PUTRID DISCHARGE FROM THE NOSE.

A young woman, fourteen years of age, of a scrofulous habit, had been subject from infancy to a nasal secretion, of a yellowish colour, putriform in appearance and very fetid. The smell of this discharge was so disagreeable that no one could approach the patient without being disgusted, and it was secreted in such quantity as to wet four handkerchiefs during the day. Recollecting the good effects obtained by the use of iodine in leucorrhœa, M. Blanq commenced the use of that medicine on this patient, on the 5th of June 1921, prepared in the following
manner, a solution of half a drachm of the hydrate of potash and ten grains of iodine were dissolved in an ounce of distilled water. Three drops of this solution were given at first three times in the day, in a cup of water, containing a little syrup. Externally a lotion was used composed of six ounces of water, and twenty-four drops of the solution of iodine before mentioned; this lotion was injected into the nostrils five or six times in the day. The doses of iodine were gradually increased, so that on September the 1st, the patient took twenty drops, of the tincture three times in the day, and the strength of the lotion was increased to sixty drops of the iodine.

By degrees the morbid secretion lost its febrile character: diminished in quantity, and became at last simply mucous and of the natural appearance, and on the 21st of September, the only circumstance observable was, that the discharge was rather more than it usually is. The doses of the medicine were gradually diminished, and the patient was restored to perfect health.

ON THE TREATMENT OF HERNIA.

BY MR. YEATMAN.

In army and private practice, twenty-four cases of strangulated hernia have been treated by me with success; twenty-one of which were reduced by using the following means, and three were operated on, thus completing the period of the strangulation. Fifteen of the above were cured by venesection, the application of cold, and the taxis; and six by these means, added to the internal exhibition of five grains of opium. The intestine, in all the twenty-four cases, had been strangulated from one to five hours. Each patient was immediately bled ad deliquum; then placed on the floor of the room, on a blanket, with pillows to raise the pelvis, the thighs being bent, and the taxis managed in the usual way. Pads of cold water, with ice, or morrit of sodi and ammonium, dissolved in the water, were placed by the side of the patient, and poured on the hernial tumour, at the distance of two feet, from the spout of a large tea-pot or small tassekettle, for a space of time varying from an hour to an hour and a half; occasionally employing the taxis for a few minutes together. When this mode of treatment failed of success, five grains of opium were given, in each case, the patient was put to bed, and the taxis had recourse to during a profound sleep.

The above number includes all the cases of strangulated hernia which have fallen under my care, or for which I have been consulted; and the above are the only means which have been employed or recommended by me.

It is well known that cold, by condensing the rarefied air in the intestine, diminishes the volume; and that a large dose of opium produces muscular relaxation, particularly if the patient be bled largely prior to the being swallowed of the opium; thus, one cannot, to observe, to use the lancet, cold, and opium, with far more success than common, they must at least, be employed in the above manner, and to the above extent.

Concerning the operation for hernia, it may here be said, that it is most disgraceful to the surgeon to find the contents of the hernial sac in a state almost approaching to gangrene; when he might have operated at an early period of the strangulation: but alas! all the remedies which have ever been recommended in such cases, are put in requisition, and many hours, and even days, are suffered to elapse in imbecile and reckless attempts to return the inflamed, enlarged, and strictrured parti into the cavity of the abdomen.

It is now seventeen years since I had occasion to observe, before the Westminster Medical Society, that the surgeons of the Bristol Infirmary, (my uncle having been one of them, and myself a pupil at that excellent hospital,) usually employed, with the taxis, only three or four of the more powerful remedies to reduce the hernial tumour,—as venesection, cold and tobacco; and that, if they did not succeed in the course of three or four hours, they proceeded to operate; and, ascribing the cause of their great success to the operating of an early period of the strangulation, I well recollect that that eminent surgeon, Mr Brodie, coincided with me in opinion, and both ably and warmly supported it.

VARIETIES.

TEMPERATURE OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.—The following deductions respecting the temperature of the earth's surface have been made by the Editor of the "Journal de Chimie," from a general and extensive review of the observations that have been made on this subject. 1st: If no place, on the earth's surface, nor at any season, will a thermometer, raised six to nine feet above the soil, and sheltered from reflected heat, attain the 115th degree of Fahrenheit,—2d, on the open sea, the temperature of the air, whatever be the place, or season, will never attain 88 degrees of Fahrenheit.—3d. The greatest degree of cold ever observed, in the atmosphere, near the earth, is 88 degrees below Zero of Fahrenheit.—4th. The temperature of the water of the ocean, in any latitude, or at any season, never rises above eighty-six degrees of Fahrenheit.

MARGOSS OIL.—Margaros Oil, which is obtained from the nut or seed of the Margosa tree, is said to have some valuable medicinal properties, but is not well established as a preservative of perishable substances of various kinds. The natives rub their bicycles or cadgules with it. On these their vesicles, histories, &c. are written; and those of uplands of two centuries and more, have been found in a delicate state, as those recently taken from the tree. Mr. Allopsees this oil might be used with advantage to preserve cables, cordage, canvas, leather, &c. from the attacks of worms and other vermin. Each kind of hair, were equally sensible. The object of the experiment was to establish the constancy of those properties which render hair valuable as a hygroscopic body. The interval, between the extremes of moisture and dryness, was passed in three minutes, in both instruments.

HUMAN HAIR.—Human hair retains its hygroscopic property for an immense length of time. M. Pietet has lately compared recent human hair with that from the head of a mummy from the Isle of Teneriff, and found that they were not different. Each kind of hair, were equally sensible. The object of the experiment was to establish the constancy of those properties which render hair valuable as a hygroscopic body. The interval, between the extremes of moisture and dryness, was passed in three minutes, in both instruments.

STATUE OF MR. JUNGER.—A marble statue of this celebrated man is to be shortly erected in Gloucester Cathedral. The Doctor is represented in the erect position, holding a roll of papers in his left hand; over his shoulders is thrown a piece of poor cloth. First it must be considered a fine piece of sculpture, and is highly creditable to the chisel of Silius. The only fault found with it is that the chest is represented rather too large; and should be in proportion to the rest of the figure, even more so as Junger was a stout man.

The statue is at present exhibited in the Model Academy at Somerset-House.

Fever.—Since the 1st of June there has been a number of cases of low fever in the town of Berlin, and also amongst the young people engaged in the harvest in the town of East-Haddam, in Connecticut, of which there have been several sudden deaths, and among others, three physicians, Dr. Warner at Haddam, Dr. Callis at Durham, and a young physician, Mr. Barber, at East-Haddam. Mr. Barber has met the same fate as Mr. Warner. We are however able to state, that the disease at Middletown has subsided, that there has been no death the week past, and that there is at present not a single case of fever in that town.

Mortality principally occurred in those weeks in which the mercury was above 90 deg. several hours every day.

HOOPING COUGH.—This disease is said to be prevailing to considerable extent on the Island of Nantucket.

Anecho.—The celebrated physician, Dunant, being surrounded at his last moments by several of the most distinguished Doctors of Paris, who vied with each other in their praise of his situation—"Gentlemen," said he, suddenly, "I do not so much regret me; I leave behind me three great physicians." On their pressing him to name them, each being sure to be included among the number he briefly added—"Water, exercise, and diet," to the small discomfort of his disappointed brethren.

Mr. Coburn, of Philadelphia, will please accept our thanks for Dr. Rees's Address in the Hall of the Medical Faculty of Jefferson College.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending July 30th; from the Health-Office Returns. No. 1575. June 17th, 1827. 6. Edward Dix, 8 mo.; William Henry Gayley, 15 mo.—24th. William Henry Brit, 6; John E. Froding, 17 mo.; Franklin Rhodes, 9 mo.; Bridget Haloken, 4 mo.; Joseph Peterson, 7 mo.; Lewis Summer; Lucy Ellen Welch, 10 mo.; Hosca L. Soule, 17 mo.; George W. L. Loud, 10 mo.—28th. Mary Henry, 70; Francis T. Roudstone, 10 weeks; Richard Dundyell, 27th.—30th. Dorr. 26th. Mary Henry, 70; Francis T. Roudstone, 10 weeks; Richard Dundyell, 27th;—Susan E. Child, 5 mo.; Bridget Salmon; Mary E. Thompson, 8 mo; George H. Brody, 7 mo.; Susan F. Man; John Shad, 5 weeks.—Child, five years; Bridget Salmon.—Abby Ann Hartwell, 9 mo.; Francis Nichols, 55.

Consumption, 4; Hooping-Cough, 1; Dropsy in the Head, 1; Infantile, 5; Dysentery, 4; Cholera Morbus, 1; Dropy, 1; Inflammation of the Eye, 1; Infantile, 1; Inflammation of the Tongue, 1; Inflammation of the Ears, 1; Cholera Infantum, 1; Stillborn, 1; Inflammation of the Ears, 1; Sudden, 1; Measles, 1; Intemperance, 1.

Died—In Canada, Dr. Osgood, a young man of talents, who had resided for some time in Canada, and who was engaged to marry young woman in his neighborhood, but was found a corpse in his bed on the morning appointed for his wedding.

OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR. ROGET'S NINTH LECTURE.

Dr. Roget's Eighth Lecture was devoted to the consideration of those more refined adaptations requisite for perfect vision, which occur in the construction of the eye, and are dependent upon optical laws of a more complicated description than those which are sufficient for explaining the simple collection of rays into focus at the bottom of the eye. Thus it is usual, for the sake of simplicity, to assume that rays of light are united by refraction, into an accurate point by dense media, having spherical surfaces. But this proposition is far from being mathematically correct. It is necessary to admit the partial reflection and law of refraction, that the rays near the axis of a lens are made to converge to a more distant focus, than those rays which are further removed from the axis. Hence, at whatever distance the rays are intercepted, so as to receive the image they are tending to produce, circles of aberration will appear, by the admixture of which some degree of indistinctness and confusion will result. The aberration of sphericity, as it is called, is a source of imperfection in ordinary telescopes. This form of curvature, applied to the collection of different pencils of rays into accurate focus, were pointed out; but their substitution for spherical surfaces, it was shown, are attended with several inconveniences, so that the forms actually given to the refracting humors of the eye are, on the whole, the most advantageous. The variable aperture provided by the construction of the iris, affords a partial remedy to this evil, arising from the imperfect incidence to spherical surfaces; and the correction thus supplied is obtained in the most effectual manner by a screen with an aperture, interposed in the situation where the iris is actually found, than if it had occupied any other place in the axis of the eye. The iris is particularly calculated for the exclusion of such portions of lateral pencils of light as fall very obliquely on the cornea.

But the principal contrivance which is employed in the construction of the eye, for correcting the effects of spherical aberration, is one of a very refined nature, and which is wholly unattainable in any optical instrument of human workmanship. It consists in the gradually increasing density of the concentric lamina composing the crystalline lens, as they approach the centre. The effect of this construction is to increase the degree of refraction of the central rays, in proportion to that given to the rays nearer to the circumference; so that by this compensation for the differences occasioned by the spherical aberration, all the rays are collected with the utmost precision into the same focus. A description was given of the intimate structure of the lens, as resulting from minute anatomical examination, which strongly corroborates these theoretical views. An account was also given of the successive changes of figure observable in the crystalline lens at different periods of its evolution. Dr. Roget showed that the actual constitution of the lens was not only the best adapted to correct the spherical aberration, but was also calculated to secure various other advantages; such as the prevention of any loss of light by reflection, or by the succession of refractive changes incident to the rays which traverse media, presenting sudden transitions of density, instead of one medium in which the variation is gradual.

The aberration resulting from Parallax was the next subject of inquiry. The focal distance of a lens is estimated by that of parallel rays. But in proportion as objects are near to the eye, the divergence of the rays which arrive at the organ becomes more and more sensible, and as a consequence of the optical law of refraction, the focal point to which they will converge by passing through a convex lens, will be further removed from the lens. An eye formed for obtaining distinct images of very remote objects, would produce only confused images of nearer objects, since the retina would intercept the converging pencils before they had united in their respective foci; and conversely, the same eye, while adapted to near vision, would not be fitted for the distinct vision of distant objects, because their images would be formed before they arrive at the retina, and would become confused when the rays reached that membrane. But as it is well known that the eye has the power of adapting itself to the distinct vision of objects at various distances, it is clear that it must derive that power from its capacity of changing its optical condition, and of adapting it to the varying divergence of incident rays. The means by which this change is accomplished have long been anxiously sought by anatomists and physiologists, and have frequently been the subject of controversy. Many erroneous opinions, as appears from the brief history given of them by Dr. Roget, have been entertained on this subject; but it would be impossible, without the aid of the numerous diagrams and drawings which were employed by the Lecturer to illustrate his reasonings, to render this part of the subject sufficiently intelligible to the generality of our readers. An appeal to the mind more particularly requisite in a branch of science involving so many considerations of a mathematical nature, and necessarily dependent on particular and complicated modifications of figure.

Dr. Roget proceeded to inquire into the circumstances connected with the extent in which the power of accommodation exists in the eyes of different individuals, and the changes which take place in this respect in the progress of life. The causes which produce long or short sightedness, and the means of remedying those opposite defects, were pointed out. The construction of the optometer of Dr. Young, and its use in determining accurately the focal powers of the eye, and the number of spectacles adapted to it, were also fully explained.

The effects of the dispersion of colored light consequent on the difference of refrangibility in the different rays which compose white light, were next adverted to. The chromatic aberration, which is one of great source of imperfection in dispersive instruments, is guarded against in the eye by the peculiar combinations of media, in a manner analogous to what is employed in achromatic telescopes. Some interesting experiments, however, were related, from the results of which it appears that the compensation in the human eye is not always complete, and that it is not, under all circumstances, a perfectly achromatic instrument.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES.

ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

Those of our readers who have seen the articles in the "Warnemunde Review," on the "Plague and Sanitarium," will not be a little surprised at the following admirable Lecture, which embraces the facts and opinions contained in those articles was delivered by Dr. Armstrong four years since, and will be still more surprised at the want of candor evinced by the writer of the essays in question in not acknowledging the source from which he derived his information, when he states, that he was then, and has subsequently been, in the habit of attending Dr. Armstrong's discourses.

On the Origin of Typhus Fever, in which its Contagious or Non-contagious nature is considered.

In my last Lecture, that on Erysipelas, I finished the consideration of the varieties of Common Fever, that fever which, under all its modifications, arises from the operation of common causes, namely, common depressants, common irritants, common stimulants, or common interruptants; and I have proved, I trust, by a reference to symptoms, to dissections, and to the effects of remedies, that this fever is legitimately divisible into three great leading varieties, namely, common congestive, common simple, and common inflammatory fever. One or two slight deviations have been made from that arrangement, as far as the remote occasions are concerned; and hence, in speaking of inflammation of the air passages, I showed that it sometimes arose from a common cause, such as cold, and sometimes from a peculiar cause, such as an epidemic constitution of atmosphere. In like manner, it was explained how the purulent form of ophthalmia sometimes proceeded from the intensity of a common cause, and sometimes from the application of a peculiar virus; and lastly, it was particularly illustrated, that in fever under its phlegmonoid, erythematous, or specific varieties, depended upon common or peculiar causes, and that, in the two last mentioned varieties, the affection of the skin was only a small part of the disorder, the pia mater and arachnoid, and more especially the mucous membrane of the bronchial and of the intestines being always affected, and occasionally even the tunics of some internal arteries and veins. Having proceeded so far, I have now to enter upon the investigation of those agents in nature which have not the properties of common causes, but which are marked by special ones; yet I believe that I shall here also be able to show, by facts and fair deductions, that these peculiar causes, namely, the poison called malaria, hu-
man contagions, and certain epidemic conditions of atmosphere, likewise produce three forms of fever—the congestive, simple, and inflammatory—in reference to their internal pathology, blended, however, with some peculiar effects proceeding from the peculiarity of the remote cause or occasion: such effects being the most conspicuous in the external pathology, such as the rash of measles, the eruption of small-pox, or the efflorescence of scarlet fever. This doctrine, I repeat, shall be confirmed by an appeal to symptoms, dissections, and the effects of remedial measures.

With respect to the peculiar causes which produce fever, there are some which may be termed infections and others contagions, for member that I make a distinction between infection and contagion; infection is a local taint, or contamination of air, which arises from a combination of agents or circumstances external to the human body; whereas, as far as human inquiry has yet legitimately extended, contagion originates, not without, but within the body, an apparently subtle secretion from the skin, in the same manner as the mode of the primary generation of which is yet one of the arcana of nature. Besides, there appears to be another difference between contagion and infection, namely, that contagion is unquestionably communicable from person to person, this communicability being the true test of a contagion; whereas, though it has been presumed, that febrile disorder descending from an infection, as before defined, propagates itself by contagion, by the new formation or assimilation of some subtle and special power or poison—though this, I say, has been presumed, yet it has not, to my mind at least, been indispensably proved to be the case; and to me it appears a problem still requiring a satisfactory solution. That fever arising from infection propagates itself by contagion is the prevailing dogma of time-established schools and colleges, but there it amounts only to a prejudice; an opinion taken up and maintained without due examination; an opinion which, like most others descended from such authorities, requires to be tried and tested by our own individual and dispassionate investigations, for the time has at length come when the human mind maintains the sacredness of independent inquiry.

In this lecture I shall confine myself to the consideration chiefly of one infection, namely, that which is vaguely called Malaria, or Marsh Malaria, and which originates from certain conditions of the earth and air. It is an exhalation which, evading our senses, is only, in the present state of our knowledge, distinguishable by its effects. What are these effects? The production of an intermittent form of fever; secondly, of a remittent form of fever; thirdly of a continued form of fever; each having, as will be shown in my next lecture, a peculiar combination of symptoms by which they differ from common fever, although their internal pathology is similar to fevers proceeding from common causes, that is to say it is congestive, it is simple, or it is inflammatory fever, under the general operation of this peculiar agent: the intermittent, remittent, and continued forms of fever, each having certain peculiar combinations of symptoms as the regular effects of malaria, or marsh effluvia. The intermittent form of fever is simple, the remittent inflammatory, and the continued still more highly inflammatory, as will be clearly demonstrated in my next. Though the intermittent, remittent, and continued forms of fever, from malaria, pass and repass into each other, yet it is so continued form that the designation of typhus has been attached, under the supposition that it proceeds from human contagion, and that it is not related to the intermittent and remittent forms.

(To be continued.)

**Biographical Sketch of Beclard.**

Eminence in any profession is reached only by a few persons, and of these few more are indebted to accidental circumstances than to absolute merit for their preference. How seldom does it happen, that native talent is fostered by the patronage of public approbation, when it has to contend with deep-rooted prejudice on the one hand, or force its way through apathy and neglect on the other. Genius is often chilled by the cool apathy of those on whom it leans for support; and industry is discouraged by withdrawing the prospect of eventual success. It was the good fortune of Beclard to advance with rapid strides from an obscure situation in society to the highest honors that could be conferred on him in that science to which he had devoted himself. National prejudices should give way to individual merit, and if we have been led to express our respect and admiration of the distinguished and accomplished Beclard, it is because we extend to his pupil the same kindness of praise to his pupil and after-colleague, Beclard.

Considering that a short sketch of the life of this active and celebrated anatomist would prove interesting to the profession of this country, we have furnished ourselves (says the London Lancet) with the necessary information from the most authentic source.

Pierre Augustin Beclard was born at Angers in 1755. His parents, although much respected, did not occupy a prominent station in society. They gave him a good education, and he happened to have for his school-fellows Chevreul and *D.B.* He was distinguished for his gifts in the sciences in which they embarked. Even while at school, Beclard showed a great parity to the liberal sciences; botany became his favorite study, and he succeeded in obtaining several prizes which were distributed at the Jardin des Plantes at Angers. Bichat was at this time at the zenith of his glory, his fame reached every part of France, and extended itself to other countries. The prizes given to this celebrated physiologist excited the most ardent desires in the minds of the young pupils, and to tread in the same steps. His parents opposed his wishes, and, instead of allowing him to study medicine, sent him to serve an apprenticeship with an ironmonger of Nantes. He had not been there long before his master sent him back to his parents, gravely assuring them that he was fit for nothing. The error so usually committed by parents of sending their children to follow certain occupations, without consulting their natural taste, or their prevailing disposition, was in this case more a remnant than a sign of consigning Beclard to count out nails by the score, and to sell iron sauce-pans. They tried him in two or three other situations, but with no more success; he could not attend to them, mere mechanical occupations had no charms for a youth who had so early displayed a refinement of taste and considerable intellectual energy. His parents at last despaired of ever making him a useful member of society, and upbraided him for showing dispositions so opposed to his interests. Finding that he manifested no inclination for any pursuits but such as were scientific, at the solicitation of some friends, who, having more judgment, observed the bias of the youth's fancy, they conducted him to attend a course of medical instruction at the Hotel Dieu of Angers. There he devoted his studies there with the modest expectation of being only qualified to practise as an officier de sante, the lowest grade in the profession of physic. Here he found himself in the right channel; he commenced his professional career with eagerness, and soon made himself master of the elementary principles of medicine and surgery. His progress was so rapid, that in the first year he was deemed competent to be admitted as an interne pupil, or house-pupil, or dresser of the hospital. He remained in this situation four years, and during that time contracted an intimate friendship with the almoner of the institution, a man of learning and discernment, who recommended the parents of Beclard to send him to Paris, as the only place calculated for the full development of his abilities.

Beclard quit Angers for Paris in 1808, and by great economy was enabled to maintain himself upon the slender allowance his parents were able to afford him. The hospitals of Paris were now open to him, and the prizes which he yearly obtained at the Ecole Pratique of the Faculté of Medicine soon marked him out as one of the most distinguished students. The situation of principal demonstrator became vacant; the competitors were numerous, but in the course of the public discussions which were held, Beclard astonished the arbitrators by the display of a maturity of talent. From this point commences the public career of Beclard; he succeeded to the place of M. Davolet, who was called to the chair of Operative Medicine of the Faculté. Succeedingly, a sitting of the society of the professors was held, but Beclard presented some important pathological fact. The bulletin of the society are filled with his investigations, and the Museum of the Faculté contains a great number of his preparations. His industry was very great, and about this period of his life, in addition to several papers inserted in the journals of the day, he wrote a very elegant thesis entitled "A Dissertation on the Local Affections of the Brain," and in conjunction with M. Jules Cloquet, translated from the English "Lawrence's Treatise on Hernia." He devoted himself with great assiduity to anatomy and surgery, and it was not long before his knowledge of them was applied to practice. An election soon took place for the office of second surgeon of the Hotel Dieu; at this Beclard was unsuccessful, and he was appointed surgeon of La Préfecture, and as well as at the hospital of the Ecole, and at the Maison de Sante, where he frequently officiated for Professor Du bois, who had received him into his family, he displayed his accurate knowledge of anatomy, and his cool and collected manner of performing an operation could not fail to strike every one. As regards surgery, Beclard has introduced several improvements in the mode of operating, in

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*Chevreul is one of the most able chemists of the present day in France, and David ranks among the first of French sculptors.*
cases of fistula of the parotid duct; in the partial amputation of the foot; in the amputation at the hip joint and shoulder, and in the extirpation of the parotid gland.

(remainder next week.)

For the Medical Intelligence.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

This Institution has been gradually increasing in reputation ever since its establishment in 1820, and it will be seen, by referring to the minutes of the spring examination of the medical pupils, that from eighteen to twenty will be offered for a degree, at the ensuing commencement in Brunswick. We know now not how it is, that so many more annually receive medical degrees at this College, than at Cambridge, unless there be something in the course of study pursued at this school, or in the nature of the examination, which enables the candidate to obtain the object of his wishes—which is too often merely a degree—with more facility, or less exertion than elsewhere. One reason, however, may be, that candidates who have taken one course of lectures, the last year of their pupilage, find it convenient to take a second, which immediately succeeds at another institution, whose laws and regulations enable them to an examination for a degree, at having attended what is called the last course. Nothing, however, can be more injurious for the student than this mode of crowding his lectures, and nothing more improper for the institution than to grant a license for practice after so hasty and imperfect an education.

We are somewhat surprised, too, to see in the medical graduates of this college, as well as in some others in New England, so large a proportion of young men, who have never received a liberal education—as if the most important and responsible profession in the world, could easily be acquired with the smallest talents and attainments!

It is notorious that many enter upon the study of medicine wholly unprepared, and at the end of three years reading are incompetent, from a deplorable deficiency in education, to take charge of the lives and health of the public. We have long thought that the statutes do not, in these cases, prescribe a course of study sufficient for the acquisition of that knowledge, which they ought especially to possess, when they undertake the practice of their profession. There are certainly strong reasons for their studying five years, instead of three: the period which, we believe, is allotted to all law students, who have not received a liberal education. They ought, we contend, if nothing more, to be debarred from a degree till they have attained the age of twenty-one; otherwise, undue encouragement is held out to aspire to the highest honors in medicine, without such a degree of preparation as at the present day, ought to precede their acquisition.

As long, too, as young men without acquirements, are entitled to the same standing and privileges, and often through public or private prejudices to even greater, than those of higher attainments—the profession of medicine will be the last in which an honest man would wish to engage, to contribute to his own happiness, or to that of the public.

There never was a period, perhaps, when medical science was cultivated with more zeal and activity in the United States, than at the present—and though it may be said with some force, potum quae meritum fuerit, some distinction, we contend, is manifestly expedient, and ought to be made between medical students of complete education, and medical tyros, who enter upon the study without sufficient learning even to understand a common prescription, if written in Latin, or the medical language, which, at every step, stare them in the face, and which to the classical student is as familiar as the primer.

We noticed, in one of your late papers, the resignation of Dr. Nathan Smith, who, for two or three winters past, has lectured at this institution. His departure will doubtless be deeply regretted, and his loss, we fear, in his favorite department of Surgery, not easily supplied. Two professorships only now remain—that of Anatomy and Physiology, and that of Chemistry and Materia Medica. This last, we think, should be divided, and at a future day will probably be made a distinct branch. Two others are needed, which it is presumed will speedily supplied. One in the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and another in Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence. Lecturers upon these subjects may be judiciously chosen from the junior members of the profession, and perhaps from that state they will be more likely to establish themselves at the medical college, and by growing with it, secure it to a character and interest, which would in vain be sought for from those who have long been established.

The Medical School of Maine, we think, would hazard nothing of its reputation, by occasionally conferring honorary medical degrees upon some of its most distinguished Physicians, who have long borne the heat and burden of their profession, and contributed materially to its advancement and reputation in that state. It was recorded, the last year, that one of its citizens and long established practitioners received the honors of Harvard, while, perhaps, others, not less deserving, might have been thought worthy of a similar distinction; and though private encomiums are somewhat flat, stale, and unprofitable, in a public journal, we cannot refrain, at this time, from alluding to a worthy gentleman in Portland, who was a graduate of Harvard, and a pupil, we believe, of the late Governor Brooks, whose public attainments, and whose private virtues, would lose nothing of their lustre by the additional consideration of a medical degree. We may mention another, also, in Hallowell, who was a distinguished pupil of the celebrated Dr. Thomas Kittredge, and whose character and reputation deservedly give him an exalted rank in the medical profession of that state.

The medical character and practice of Maine, is certainly of an honorable stamp—and if the public would secure to themselves well-educated, skilful and honest practitioners, they must foster medical schools, medical societies, and medical talents and virtue, and crush to the dust that despicable herd of ignorant, illiterate, time-serving practitioners, whose false experience, false theory, and false practice, have long been productive of such infinite mischief in civilized society.

ELECTRIC PHENOMENON.

A new feather bed was put into a cold and damp room, and a person incautiously went to sleep in it, without the precaution of having had a fire put in the room during the day, to remove the dampness. Scurriedly he had been ten minutes in bed, when he fancied he saw light issuing from his eyes; for this supposition he had the best possible reason, as from the situation of the room, there was not the least cranny or opening at which light could be supposed to enter, the doors and windows being completely shut and fastened. He paid no attention to this circum-

stance at first, thinking it was the effect of mere imagination; he bad like, however, to have paid dear for his temerity. Feeling rather chilly, owing to the state of the room, he put his head under the bed-clothes to increase his warmth; he had not continued longer than five minutes in this situation, when, on removing his head from under them, he suddenly felt, as it were, a severe blow on the shoulders, neck, and head, and the pain seemed to run along the spine, at the same moment a blue flame flashed from his eyes, and a permanent circle of lambent light appeared to irradiate their sockets. Perfectly certain that no person was in the room but himself, he sat up in bed for a moment to reflect on the cause; as the light still continued to flow from his eyes, he immediately recollected that the bed and pillows consisted of new feathers, and that they might be in a highly electric state, and that the shock he had received must have been from them. No sooner had he formed this conjecture, but he leaped on the floor, and found it verified; the light in his eyes gradually diminished, and before five minutes had passed, it was totally gone. Having no desire to repeat the experiment that night he went to another room for the remainder of the evening. Some nights afterwards, when a fire had been introduced into the room where the phenomenon took place, and matters had been more comfortably arranged, he went to bed as before, and surprising to relate, he experienced exactly the same results. He had now no doubt of the facts, and he was convinced that the shocks he had received were owing to the electric state of the feathers in the bed, as well as in the pillows. It is remembered having received from an electrical machine, or a Leyden jar. This is given on the authority of the Glasgow Chronicle.

ON FRACTURES OF THE SKULL.

Simple (undepressed) fracture of the skull is not productive of any symptom or condition, by which, when the integuments remain entire, we could be certain of its existence. Blood issuing from the nose, eyes, and ears, affords a strong presumption of fracture passing across the bones which encompass these organs. In simple fracture, accompanying an incised or lacerated wound of the skull, we are particularly required to bring the lips of the wound into close apposition, and procure their speedy union. To trace the extent of a simple fracture is equally unavailing and unnecessary, for such fractures too often pass from the top, or sides, to the base of the skull, until stopped by the foramen magnum; and surely the fracture, if left uncovered, is more likely to unite without much inflammation than if it be exposed to satisfy an idle curiosity. The early application of the trepan to a simple fracture must tend to excite, rather than to arrest inflammation of the contents of the cranial. The constitutional treatment of such injuries should consist in the most sedulous employment of the means calculated to prevent inflammation of the brain and its membranes.

DEPRESSED FRACTURES.

The symptoms of compressed brain do not correspond in severity with the size of the depressed portion of bone, or the depth to which it sunk. In severe injuries of this kind, the symptoms are comparatively slight and of short duration. If the case be not urgent, we may
TREATMENT OF PALSY.

This disorder is more or less dangerous, according to the importance of the parts affected; it is accompanied with a loss of sense or motion, or both, in one or more parts of the body.

The patient, if young, should be bled, blistered, and have purgative medicines administered; but if advanced in life, a contrary mode must be adopted, viz. the warm bath, external application of stimulant liniments, the flesh-brush, &c.

In a convalescent state, persons affected with palsy should take as much exercise as their strength will permit; keeping themselves warm with flannels, &c. and carefully avoiding every thing chilly or damp.

VARIEGAT.

Fossil Bons.—At a late sitting of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Baron Cuvier read a letter from M. Baudouin, of Lyons, respecting some fossil bones found in a garden near that city. These bones were found near the top of a small eminence, at the depth of from six to nine feet, and were scattered near a space of sixty feet in length, by from twenty to twenty-five feet in breadth. The upper layer consisted of the bones of elephants, all of which appear to have belonged to the same animal; its lower jaw containing four of its molars, its upper rib, its two humeri, and its two tibias, have all been found in a good state of preservation. These bones were carried by M. Baudouin in 17, Colonne, and published in Philadelphia by James Webster; it is to make its appearance in the next number, which comes out in October. We have little doubt it will be a source of gratification to the numerous subscribers to that useful Journal.—Phil. Paper.

UNICORN.—Among the curiosities sent by Mr Hodgson, of Edinburgh, is a resident at Katmandoo, to the Asiatic Society of Calcutea, is a large spiral horn, and with it, drawings of the animal, made by a Bhota peasant; the drawings are said to convey the true image of a living animal of the deer kind, out of the centre of whose forehead grows a horn of the description transmitted. The animal is described as gregarious, granvious, and its flesh good to eat. Its name is elros, its color bright bay, and its dwelling place that of Bhabo, beyond the Himalaya. The Bhoteans, whom trade and religion bring down annually to Nepal, appear to concur in testimony as to the existence of this animal, but they hesitate about procuring it, though urged by the promise of a liberal reward. They declare that the elros is too large and fierce to be taken alive, or fall under their simple weapons; but they sometimes find the horns shed by the living, or left after the death of the dead animal.

THEFT.—The public medical library, in Montreal, has lately been broken open, and the books stolen. We learn many of them have since been recovered.

Dr. Pascalei of New York, has been admitted a corresponding member of the Academy of Medicine, of the city of Mexico.

Deaths in New-York, last week, 207: apoplexy, 33; drinking cold water, 22; consumption, 18; convulsions, 16; sudden deaths, 15.—In Philadelphia, 163.

Although the communication on the Medical School of Maine, has been admitted into our columns, we entertain no such personal feelings ourselves, in relation to that of Bhabo, beyond the Himalaya. We have ever been friendly to its present system, and thus we still remain.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending last Sat. 1; from the Health-Office Returns, August 1.—Mary Reed, 25; Charles B. Knight, 21; John McLaughlin, 54; Abigail Knights, 43; Eliza Page; Thomas Irving, 45; Fanny Baxter, 34; Lucy W. Munstead, 14 mo.; Sarah D. King, 5; Anne Rand, 15; W. P. White, 15; Mary Jeffers, 83.

Greenwood; Isabella Maria Colburn, 10 mo.; Jonathan Fiske, jr. 6 mo.; James Ryan, 33; Hannah Babcock, 2; Elizabeth D. Darlin, 3; Mary Vincent, 24; George Clinton Tucker, 15 days; Ruth H. Snow, 20 mos.; John C. Perry, 40; George Fox, 40; John D. Wise, 10 mo.; John Matthews Lums, 3 weeks; Marcus Henry Coburn, 25; Patrick Canley, 26.

Sailmon Coleman, 40; Captain of the Heart, 1—Consumption, 5; Pits, 1—Dysentery, 4—Inflammation of the Lungs, 1—Old Age, 2—Stillborn, 1—Cholera Morbus, 2—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Arthritis, 1—Quinsy, 1—Hunger-Courts, 1—Infection of the Bones, 1—City Poor, 2.—At General Hospital, 2.

DIVO.—At Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Daniel Bigelow, aged 29, formerly of Petersham, Massachusetts.

In Belfast, Me., Dr. Heman Abbott, aged 42—a native of Wilt, N. H.

Mr. Harriet Rice, 11th May, John Alex.

Abel.] M. D. of the University of New York.

In New York, Dr. John W. Cox, of Rhinebeck; and

John Jackson, of Wales, aged 27.

Bateman's Improved Truss, For sale at Reed and Howard's, No. 44, Hanover Street, at the head of Elm Street.
OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR ROGET'S TENTH LECTURE

Having considered in the two preceding Lectures the several means by which accurate images are formed upon the retina, Dr Roget proceeded, in his Tenth Lecture, to the investigation relating to the second division of the subject. This division comprises the inquiry in the connection that exists between these physical impressions and the mental perceptions to which they give rise. A wide field is opened to us in this department of physiology, which embrasse many topics of curious and difficult solution; it involves the consideration of mental as well as physical laws; and supplies some of the obscure, but interesting links of connexion between the phenomena of body and of mind. So difficult is the effort required to unravel long established and almost indissoluble associations, formed at a period of which the memory has preserved no trace, that we can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that our knowledge of the situation, forms, distances, and magnitudes of the objects that see, is not the result of an intuitive perception belonging to the sense of vision. The opinions of many ancient philosophers, that we saw objects by the emission of visual rays from the eye, were quoted as examples of the force of this natural prejudice. But a careful inquiry into the nature of the visual ideas, excited by the appearances presented by the eye, will show us that they involve perceptions of space, which must have been originally derived from a sense distinct from that of sight. They, in fact, belong to the sense of touch; or, perhaps, if the analysis were pursued to a greater degree of accuracy, they will be found to be derived from a peculiar sense connected with the voluntary movements of the body and of its different parts. All the ideas relating to distance, magnitude, and figure, are acquired with perfect facility by persons who have never enjoyed the sense of sight; it is clear, therefore, that they may exist quite independently of that sense. But we may, on the other hand, conceive a human being born with none of the senses, except that of sight; and we may then inquire what perceptions this sense alone would be capable of suggesting to his mind. By tracing the consequences of this hypothesis, Dr Roget showed that the perceptions of this single sense could not communicate the knowledge of external objects situated at different distances: still less could they give any information as to the various tangible forms arising from their solidity and third dimension. But the case is not merely hypothetical or imaginary. It is the real situation of a child at birth, whose eye is for the first time opened, and who has not yet exercised the sense of touch, or acquired, by the spontaneous movements of his limbs, any accurate notions of the space of the field in which he is situated, and of the situation of the objects that occupy that space. The connexion or association between the visible and tangible ideas, is entirely the result of experience. The visible appearance becomes the sign or symbol which suggests the idea of the object with all its tangible attributes; the association being of the same nature with that which is established between a name and the thing represented by that name. This theory was first distinctly laid down by Bishop Berkeley, in his celebrated Essay on Vision; and was happily put to the test of experiment in the remarkable case of a boy who, after being blind from birth, was enabled to see by an operation performed on his eyes by Cheselden. A minute account is given by that author of the first perceptions received by his young patient, when his eyes began to exercise their proper functions. The impressions made on the organs of vision gave him at first no idea of objects at any distance from them: the objects viewed seemed in every case to touch his eyes, as he expressed it, as what he felt did his skin. He had no notion of the real shape of what he saw; nor could he, by the sight alone, distinguish one thing from another, however they might really differ in form and magnitude. He acquired this power only by slow degrees, and by dint of continual comparison of the impressions of sight with those of touch. When, as in the case of pictures, the perceptions of the one seemed to be at variance with those of the other, he was exceedingly astonished, and would ask which was the lying sense, seeing or feeling?

Dr Roget next adverted to the celebrated problem concerning Vision, proposed by Molyneux to Locke, and which has excited a good deal of attention, and even controversy, among physiologists and metaphysicians. The question was, whether a person who had been blind from birth, and had learned to distinguish by the touch a globe and a cube, could, immediately after he had acquired the faculty of sight, distinguish them at first sight by that sense, without their aid of touch. This question has been usually answered in the negative: but several considerations were stated by Dr Roget, which should be taken into account in forming an opinion on this point. Although it may be true, that without the assistance of the sense of touch, visible appearances would not of themselves give us a notion of distance or solidity; it is equally true, that if this foundation has once been laid, the visual ideas come greatly in aid of the rapid and distinct perceptions of objects, as compounded of the impressions of both these senses. When the connexion between them has been once established, the slightest hint from either of these senses will suddenly call up all the associated ideas, and we have presented to our minds the full and complete perceptions of the object, with all its properties, both visible and tangible.

The theory of Burkeley affords a satisfactory solution of a question which has always been supposed to involve considerable difficulty, namely, how it happens that we see objects in their real situation, when the images by which we see them are themselves inverted. This subject was discussed at considerable length, and illustrated by a statement of the results of various experiments which could not well be rendered intelligible without the assistance of diagrams. The question was therefore considered as one by which we determine the direction in which objects are viewed by each eye, singly, was next explained. According to this law, each point of an object is imagined to be situated somewhere in the course of a straight line drawn from the corresponding point of its image on the retina, and through the centre of the lens. The various exemplifications of this law under the different circumstances in which it may be applied, were stated; and also the cases in which it appears to be violated.

The means by which we form a judgment of the distances of objects from our eyes, as well as of their magnitudes, were next made the subject of inquiry. The conditions which influence the nature of the images on the retina, arising from distance, and which require to be attended to by the painter in conveying the idea of gradations of distance in the various parts of the scene he delineates, were particularly pointed out; and many instances of visual deceptions where these conditions are not present, were cited in illustration. Proofs were also given, that in the judgments we form, both of distance and of magnitude, our inferences with respect to the one are often determined by our previous, or supposed knowledge of the other. Some remarks were made on the effects of aerial perspective, and on the exhibition of the phantasmagoria, and other optical illusions, in confirmation of the principles that were laid down on this subject. The phenomenon of the magnified appearance of the sun or moon, when at the horizon, as compared with their apparent size when at a considerable altitude, were readily explained, as direct consequences of the same general theory.

The visible idea of an object seen at that particular distance at which its view is most full and distinct, becomes the permanent or predominant conception, which is most readily excited by association with other perceptions or ideas, and which blends itself with the perceptions derived from the other senses, so as to form an exceedingly compound idea. Every partial view, or even transient glance of an object, with which the mind has thus become familiar, under any of its various aspects, instantly excites this standard or dominant visual idea. Thus does the sense of Vision form apparently intuitive judgments with regard to the tangible attributes of bodies, independently of Touch, by which latter sense, the remote foundations only were laid, and the necessary elements supplied, of these judgments.

Dr Roget concluded this lecture by some observations on the combined influence of the impressions made on both our eyes, with reference to single vision; a subject, which, though investigated with great care by the most acute reasoners, is yet perplexed with many difficulties. But as the time did not admit of the discussion of these questions in this lecture, he announced his intention of resuming it in the next.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF BECIBARD.

(Concluded from page 53.)

In 1818 he was called to the chair of Anatomy of the Faculté, which he occupied with the greatest honor. To an intimate knowledge of the subject he added a neat and elegant mode of expression, so that he enabled to illustrate the science of anatomy with great richness and beauty. The passionate attachment which Beciard felt for the science is evident in his writings, in which rather to express himself simply than run the risk of being misunderstood, and on most occasions he has sacrificed the brilliant to the useful. In addition to the regular course of anatomical lectures, he gave a course of pathological surgery at the Hospital of la Pitié. In that stupendous work the Dictionnaire de Medicine, Beciard took a very active part, and the greatest number of articles on anatomy were inserted by him. Beciard also undertook the revision of the second edition of Bichat's excellent work on anatomy, and furnished to it several valuable notes. These notes were published in a separate volume in the year 1821, under the title of "Additions à l'Anatomie générale de D. Bichat."

In this volume Beciard brought the improvements and discoveries made in anatomy from the time of the publication of Bichat's works in 1801 and 1812. This volume must have cost much time and trouble, as he did not confine himself to the writings of his own countrymen, but also availed himself of the information to be gleaned from the most important works on the same subject in German and English. It appears to have been Beciard's intention to have published a complete treatise on anatomy, and as an introduction to such a work, he wrote a volume which he entitled "Éléments d'Anatomie générale" which appeared in the year 1823. This book contains a concise summary of all the information which he had acquired of the general issues of the body. It is written in a methodical and vigorous style, and contains a great number of valuable anatomical facts.

His manners appeared at first sight rather reserved, and as if there was a coolness manifested in his behaviour; but such an impression soon wore off, and he was found to be affable and obliging. His library was open to all, and his conversations were highly useful and instructive. Among the public services which Beciard rendered to the state must be ranked the independent and manly manner in which he discharged his duty as president of the juries of the departments, vested with the power of admitting persons to practice, and his efforts to improve the system of health. The just severity with which he did his duty in this situation tended very much to diminish the number of abuses which had before been committed by the admission of unqualified persons. Beciard was esteemed no less for his talents than for his private character, he was the mediator and friend of contending parties, and by his prudence he escaped those political tumults which arose among the professors, but of which the sciences ought always to remain free. He did not escape, however, the injuries which were suffered during the reorganization of the Faculty of Medicine, in the year 1823, the students troubled with apprehension lest their distinguished and favorite professor should not resume his place. The merit of Beciard, and his attachment to the science, overcame the designs of an itching faction, and he again filled that chair which he had so long graced. The assiduity with which he had applied himself to his anatomic studies began to make a serious impression on his health, and he frequently complained of symptoms which indicated a chronic inflammation of the stomach, with occasional attacks of hemorrhage. The complaint, however, returned, from time to time, with increased violence, and in March last it was complicated with an acute cerebral affection, accompanied by dyspnea of the head. After lingering about eleven days, he died on the 16th of that month, notwithstanding every care and assistance which art and friendship could afford, in the 39th year of his age. During the first days of his illness, and during the remission which he experienced in its progress, he was conscious of his dangerous situation, and delivered his opinion on the nature of his complaint as if talking of any other individual. The examination of the body discovered the following conditions: the brain and its membranes were very much injected with blood, and in the stomach was found the cicatrice of an ulcer that had penetrated through the two interior coats. The brain was well developed, and the anterior part in much greater portion than the posterior. The general solicitude manifested during his illness, and the great consternation occasioned by the announcement of his death, are proofs of the great esteem in which he was held.

The professors of the Ecole de Medicine, a great number of the physicians of the capital, and more than two thousand students, attended his funeral, anxious to pay their last respects to their colleague, their friend, and their instructor. His pupils disputed for the honor of bearing his corpse to its last abode, and the empty Hearse followed the large crowd of persons which assembled and passed through the city. This ceremony must have been very imposing, and this mark of respect shown to the remains of Beciard have highly been esteemed by the profession of the French capital. The people were astonished at such extraordinary pomp where the insignia of power were absent, and anxiously inquired the name of the individual to whom such homage was shown. It was repeated from one to another, "It is Beciard, the son-in-law of Dubois," and the renown of this celebrated old man only gave an additional interest to the solemnity of the procession. In two hours the pupils arrived at the Cinémathèque de l'Est with their sorrowful burden, and would allow no other persons to place the earth over the remains of their illustrious master.

It is the custom in France to pronounce funeral orations at the graves of distinguished men, accordingly M. Pelletier, jun., in the name of the Faculté de Médecine, delivered a very pathetic discourse, in which he expressed the sincere regret of that body at the decease of their professor, and paid a tribute of great respect to his character. M. Richerand was deputed by the Faculté to deliver the address, but he could not command his feelings sufficiently to do so, and M. Malte-Brun therefore delivered an address in the name of the Academy, and M. Roux in the name of the Section of Surgery. M. Anselm addressed the persons assembled at considerable length as a private friend of Beciard's, and one of his pupils present, in the name of his fellow students, the last expressions of their sorrow and respect.

Thus has closed the short, but brilliant career of Beciard; he was endowed by nature with a powerful mind, and by his industry and application he succeeded, in a few years, in forcing himself to the summit of his profession; honored by his colleagues, and respected even by his adversaries of another school. More, no doubt the profession at large would have been benefited by his experience and his extensive opportunities for observation; but,

Fellidae morus sequa pulsat pede paupemer tabernae Regumque turtu.

DR ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES

ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

On the Origin of Typhus Fever, in which its Contagious or Non-contagious nature is considered.

(Continued from page 54.)

Now it happens that we have no correct definition of typhus, nor the semblance of a definition, for it is an insult to common sense to admit Cullen's definition to be such, which, including none of the essentials of typhus fever, is so loosely worded as to be applicable to the last stage of any fever where the brain has been much affected in the first. Indeed most of Cullen's definitions as they are called, are merely nominal, not real definitions, since they are abstract words, by which a number of symptoms are strung together, without any reference to the pathological conditions upon which these symptoms depend. This is particularly the case in regard to what Cullen denominated febris, concerning the true nature of which he seemed to know little or nothing; and yet this is the author who is held as a guide in most of our schools and systematic works! You are aware that Cullen has certain artificial distinctions, which he calls classes, orders, genera, and species. A definition of a class, nosologically, is the most general description which can be given of affections which have symptoms in common; and a definition of a genus is the next most general description, while that of the genera and species become more and more particular. Now Cullen's definition of pyrexia is this, "After shivering, succeed a quick pulse, increased heat, with interruption and disorder of several functions; diminution of strength, particularly that of the joints." That this definition is very general must be admitted, indeed nothing can be more indefinite; besides, it is really inaccurate as to matter of fact. Cullen here assumes, that shivering is always an essential part of fever; but I declared, on a former occasion, that fever sometimes arises from the direct application of a stimulant, without any cold fit or shivering at all; neither does the hot stage invariably follow the cold one, as this definition implies, for the cold stage sometimes remains and constitutes genuine convective fever. But to go to his order febres, which he defines thus— "Pyrexia, preceded by languor, lassitude, and other signs of debility, without any primary local disease." This definition, you will perceive, is only a repetition of the former, with the addition of a particular clause, namely, the words, "no primary local disease," by which he distinguishes it from the class. Pyrexia is made, by Cullen, a part of the definition of febres, and the definition of pyrexia describes the functions as being much dis-
turbed, yet we are told, even in fevers, that there is no primary local disease. He assumes this, but it is a metaphysical and medical absurdity, for no disease of the functions can possibly take place without having been preceded by some change in the organs connected with such functions, and that change is, as I before attempted to prove, either a state of disorder or disease. Cullen, like many of the other authors, did not, it must be confessed, discover the existence of that disorder, and therefore the term idiopathic fever was an admirable shelter of expression, one nicely fitted to conceal an ignorance respecting those alterations which take place within the body.

If we pass on to Cullen's continued fever, he describes it after this fashion: “Fever, without intermission, not arising from marsh miasm, but continuing with remissions and exacerbations, although not very remarkable, two paroxysms in each day.” Here is an assumption that a continued fever never arises from malaria, or marsh miasm; but the truth is, as will by and by appear, that this disease, apparently in all parts of the inhabited world, does very frequently indeed produce continued fever, that usually termed typhus. If we pass on to his subdivisions of continued fever, we find his synocha, his synoachus, and his typhus. As to his definition of synochoa, what is it, pray? He says, the heart is much increased, the pulse frequent, strong, and hard, the urine red, the functions of the sensorium little disturbed. Now only recollect that synocha is arranged under the order fevers, where, according to Cullen, there is “no primary local disease.” Did any man ever see a fever, attended with such symptoms, which was not preceded by some primary local disorder? Most confidently, I answer, never. Synoachus, we are informed, by the same authority is a fever compounded of synocha and typhus; a synocha in the beginning, and a typhus towards the end. Indeed! Is a disorder really one thing at the commencement, and another at the close? Do small pox, measles, scarlet fever, pass into each other? Is there any known affection which so changes its character, as synoachus? This is surely a hyperbolical subtlety, not sanctioned by what is yet known in the changes of explored nature. But let us hear what Cullen says about typhus. It is, according to his creed, a contagious fever, in which the heat is but little increased; the pulse weak, small, and in general quick; urine little changed; the animal functions much disturbed; prostration of strength. But did any man ever witness such a concourse of symptoms, unprecedented by primary local disorder? Indeed, it is not. Moreover, their enumeration of symptoms is no more applicable to typhus fever than to any other fever, where the powers of life are giving way, and where the brain is oppressed. In truth, it contains no correct allusions of genuine typhus fever, the character of which I shall endeavour to describe, when I shall have premised, in this Lecture, some remarks on the remote occasions, and its contagious or non-contagious nature.

(To be continued.)

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

It very often happens that those give advice who are the least qualified for the office—and many are ready to offer an off-hand opinion, without examining the facts on which it should be founded: when the names of such persons are given with their communications, little evil results, for the public knows what degree of credit to bestow on them. But it sometimes happens that baseless ignorance conceals itself under the mantle of wiser years, and thunders forth its opinions as if they were really entitled to the consideration it covets. We apprehend such to be the case with the writer of a piece on the Medical School of Maine, in the last Intelligencer. We doubt his assertions with regard to it. We do not believe that any receive degrees at that institution who are not found qualified by a strict examination, or who are deficient in any branch of medical education.

If the question be why Bowdoin, in common with Yale, Dartmouth, Pittsfield, and Castleton, confers more degrees than Cambridge, the answer is easy. In this age of medical schools, when every state has one or more, students are right in wishing to hear more than the lectures at a single institution—they thus increase their advantages, for there is no monopoly of talent, each school having something to distinguish it; but Harvard is the only medical institution in New-England, where the lectures of other institutions are considered as of no value—so that if a student is able to attend only two courses of lectures (which is all that any law requires), and wishes that one of them should be at Harvard and the other at Pittsfield or Brunswick, he is forced to apply for his degree at these latter schools, or pay for a third course at Harvard. This is the reason why Bowdoin graduates more than Harvard, and not that an inferior degree of knowledge will suffice in Maine.

We must leave to those who are better acquainted than we are, with the classes which have been graduated at Bowdoin, to answer the charge more in detail. We however can recollect that even in the short space of four years, two of its medical graduates have become Professors in other institutions. Does this look like deficiency in requirements?—On one head we do agree with the writer—that those who have not received a collegiate education, should be required to pass a longer time in the study of medicine; not the difference which is allowed in Yale, where college graduates can receive a medical degree, after two years' study, but a prolongation of the term to four or five years. This regulation, however, to be effectual, should commence with our oldest institutions. Let Philadelphia, New-York, and Cambridge, pass this law, and our younger colleges will, we doubt not, follow the example which to them can only be a source of profit. —But in the mean time we entirely object to the intimation of our writer, that those who have never received a college education have the “smallest talents and attainments.” Even in the small circle of our own acquaintance, we could point out those who are in possession of college diplomas, who are decidedly inferior in every respect, to others who have not that honour. —We would, on this very account, most cordially acquiesce in the concluding sentence, as we shall use our best endeavours to “eruct to the dust that despicable herd of ignorant, illiterate, time-serving practitioners, whose false experience, false theory, and false practice, have long been productive of such infinite mischief in civilized society”—and we add—whether such have received college degrees or not; fully believing that the mere circumstance of having a diploma, does not of itself entitle a man to public confidence and patronage.

REVIEW.


This Report forms a pamphlet of one hundred and twenty or thirty pages—bearing no small proportion to the magnitude of the title. Let our readers, however, should be startled at the outset, we beg leave to premise, that we have neither time nor space to go into an elaborate review of the trial, but intend merely offer a general notice of it, with the hope that it will soon undergo a more particular and critical examination at the bar of some of our larger journals. The trial has excited much attention; and well it may—for it is full of rare and important speculations, from which the faculty may derive equal instruction, profit and pleasure. Two physicians and surgeons of respectable standing in society, though neither of them, we believe, Doctors in Medicine, as alleged, are charged with malpractice, in failing to reduce the plaintiff's hip-joint, which was unfortunately dislocated on the 7th of Sept. 1821. —That the hip was dislocated there is no doubt—at least, in our own minds—and from the testimony, there is as little doubt that it was afterwards fully reduced, and that the plaintiff from some unaccountable cause or other—from negligence on his own part, rather than that of the surgeons—from carelessness of his attendants—from his own anxiety to get abroad again—from a convolution which he experienced a few weeks after the operation—from injury done to the soft parts—or lastly, which is most probable, from fracture of the acetabulum, it was again misplaced, and has given rise to the formality of a trial, and origin to all the difficulties, disappointments and misfortunes, which have since been brought upon him, and which, for ought we see, must be endured to the end of his life.

It appears in evidence, that a few weeks after the operation, and as soon as the patient was able to travel, he came to Boston, and became an inmate of the Hospital, there, under the direction of Drs Warren, Mann, Welch, Spooner, &c. who were unanimously of opinion that a dislocation then existed, an attempt was made, secundum artes, to effect a reduction, but without success. The patient, under the most woful disappointment, and despairing of future relief, hastens to his native village, and commences an action of damages against the defendants, at ten thousand dollars—which thanks to an able counsel, a learned judge, and a disinterested jury, terminated in the dismissal of the action, and discharge of the defendants.

The evidence in the case consists of two kinds—facts and opinions. The facts are, that the hip was dislocated—that Faxon and Hawks were employed to set it—that it was reduced, and that Hawks left the patient to the care of Faxon—that Faxon attended the patient honestly and faithfully, and that he was acquitted by him of all responsibility in the case, but unmeritoriously associated with Hawks on trial, to destroy the value of his testimony—that Hawks lived at Eastport, a considerable distance from the patient, but saw him as often as his professional leisure would permit, and prophetically told him that the socket was fractured, and impounded upon him absolute rest and quiet—
that the patient within a fortnight or three weeks after
the operation, had a "kind of fit," in which he appre-
ended he had again displaced the hip—then after
this he walked a considerable distance to another
house, and for the first time discovered an elonga-
tion of the limb. He now takes his own course, and travels
up to our good city of Boston, where the faculty at the
Hospital were of opinion that the dislocation then ex-
isted, and the operation was accordingly commenced.
And here we cannot refrain from quoting a page from
the defence of Dr. Davis, the learned and ingenious
consulting physician for the defendants, as a specimen of his
talent at description, and the successful manner in which he
has handled his subject.

"It cannot be denied, that the opinion comes
with an air of authority sufficiently imposing—
with nought less than the gravity of the whole
combined surgical faculty of the Massachusetts
General Hospital.—The annals of this establish-
ment bear record of a certain dislocation into
the Ischiatric Notch, which an attempt was made to
reduce, on the 9th of December, 1821. The
learned faculty of that eminent institution was
summoned together by Dr. John C. Warren, to
examine the case of an unfortunate victim of
village quackery, just arrived and removed from
Clark's tavern. The conclave consisted of Drs.
Warren, Townsend, Welsh, Mann and Spooner,
consulting physicians of the hospital. This
learned body was clearly and unanimously of
opinion, first, that the hip was dislocated.
Although with a mistaken notion of the superior
acute reckless to install it, they acknowledge
d of this date at that period rather difficult
to discover; still it was one, concerning
which men of high standing in the profession
could not differ. Men of eminence and experi-
ence acquainted with anatomy could not doubt
that the indications laid down in professional
works on this point were so precise, that they could
not escape a careful observer. In a word, it
was so plain a case, it was impossible to be mis-
taken.

"Preparations were accordingly made to put
this opinion to the test. The hour is appointed
for the experiment. The squadron of pupils
was assembled in an attitude of the greatest
期待 to see an operation performed upon a limb that
had been imperfectly reduced; the rising useful-
ness of this great institution was to be attested by
a decisive achievement—and a day of glory was
about to dawn upon the Massachusetts
General Hospital. By way of preparatory measures, the
patient is stated to have taken a powerful cat-
theric in the morning, and been put into a warm
bath; and in order to relax the muscular powers
more completely, nausea doses of trarantule or
antimony were administered, and he was bled as
freely as possible. The patient was then in
a bed form installed upon a table and placed upon
his right side. He was again secured to a neigh-
boring wall by a sheet passed between his
thighs. A force was then applied immediately above
the knee of the injured limb, by means of bandages
and cords to draw it forward and inward, ex-
tended by the main strength of several persons.
At the same time a force by means of pulleys was
applied at the middle of the thigh, at right
angles with the limb, in such a direction, as to
draw the head of the bone toward the body of
the hip. These forces were gradually and alternately
increased for the space of about an hour—and

VARIEGITIES.

Medical Inquiries.—The French government
being desirous of establishing in France the best
regulations to preserve the public health, has
sent orders to its consuls in the United States, to
procure the most exact information and docu-
ments, with regard to the sanitary service (regu-
lations), in the respective states of its resi-
dence. Answers are desired to the following
questions—and should any of our correspondents
feel disposed to aid the object which the govern-
ment has in view, by forwarding their communi-
cations to the office of this journal, they will be
immediately transmitted to the French consul.

1. What are the regulations now followed, in the
United States, with respect to the sanitary
system, or quarantine laws?—2. What is the
composition and organization of the boards
(boards of health), entrusted with that service?
3. What is the government of the lazarrettoes,
and the infirmaries and hospitals attached to the
lazarettoes?—4. What are the usual means resorted
to, in order to purify infected places?—5. What
are the local dispositions, adopted for the venti-
lation of public buildings?—6. What is the
management of the Lazarettos?—What are the
regular rules followed, with respect to the precautions against the
yellow fever?—7. What are the indications of dis-
eases which are (in the U. S.) supposed to be
contagious—and against the invasion of which,
what measures are judged necessary to be taken?
8. And finally, any information respecting the choler morbus, its progress and contagious
character, will be kindly received.

Hooping Cough.—As this disease is now
beginning to prevail in some particular districts, we recommend
the perusal of Dr Waterhouse's treatise. Dr Good, the
celebrated, and at present, the most distinguished med-
ical writer of the age, says this work is more valuable
than American physicians have seemed to acknowledge.

Hydrometer.—An hydrometer for examining
the urine of diabetic and other patients. The stem of which
is divided, so as to indicate the known stages and
degree of disease, has been contrived by Dr W. Prout,
and described and engraved in the "Annals of Philoso-
phy." No. 53, the use of which instrument, cannot fail
to be useful in the medical professional.

Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston,
Ending August 12:—from the Health-Office Returns.
August 5th.—Catharine Morley, 2 mo.; Caroline
Parker, 7 mo. — Catharine Sullivan, 3; Elizabeth
Page, 9 mo. — William Hills, 34; Abigail A.
Chapman, 11 mo.; Susan Scott, 20; Nancy Jackson.
7th.—L. D. Taylor, 3 mo.; Samuel Hill, 9.
11th.—Elizabeth Dolbear, 64. 8th. — James
Coombs; — Pride; Mary G. Phillips, 2; Lucy Ann
Snow, 15 mo.; Caroline Maris Small, from Cambridge.
19th.—Henry W. Ticknor, 19; Leonard
Jones, 30; Elizabeth Brown; Jeremiah Meads, 22;
Henry Gates, 4 mo.; Perez Lincoln, 3. 10th.—Ellen
A. Clark, 3 mo.; Sarah Maran, 60; Francis Creely,
from Charlestown. 20th.—Joseph Weed, 56.
11th.—Julia M. Lord, 19 mo.; Daniel H.
Colby, 21 mo. — Sarah D. Martin, 1. 12th.—Robert
Morris, 45; John Newton, Jr. mo.
Infections.—W. Ferris, 1; Palsey, 1; Dyspepsia, 5.
8th.—W. Ferris. 9th.—Palsey. 10th.—Summer Complaint, 1
Debility, 1; Cholera Morbus, 1; Dropsy in the Head, 3.
Billious Fever, 2; Typhus Fever, 1; Liver Failure, 1.
1st.—Disorder in the Head, 1; Dropsy in the Stomach, 1.
1st.—In House of Industry, 4.—City Poor, 4.

Berkshire Medical Institution,
Connected with Williams College.

THE Berkshire Medical Institution, located in Pitts-
field, Berkshire, is the connecting link between
a thoroughly modern and enlightened population, presents many advantages
for the medical student. Its prosperity has been great
beyond example, and constant efforts are making to
secure it for the future a truly sound and complete
degree conferred at the close of the lectures and at
the annual commencement at Williams College.

The men who have received the degree of Doctor of Med-
icine from the Berkshire Medical Society and those who have attended two full courses of
lectures at any regularly incorporated medical school,
in which the lectures are given by an equal number of lecturers or professors, are granted the
privilege of admission to the Berkshire Medical Institute and attendance on two full courses of
lectures, one of which must have been in this institution.
The examinations of candidates for degrees commence on Thurs-
day preceding the commencement. It is expected
that the graduate from the last class who shall present the best
dissertation on a given subject between this and the
commencement of the next lecture term—the other to the
candidate from the next succeeding class, who shall
present the best dissertation on any subject.

Berkshire Medical Institution, August 16, 1825.

ATHENEUM:
OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

JUST published, by John Cottin, No. 184, Wash-
ington-Street, corner of Franklin-Street.

Batemar's Improved Truss,
F or sale at Reed and Howard's, No. 44, Hanover
Street, at the head of Elm Street.

Subscriptions for the Medical Intelligencer will be
received in Baltimore by Dr. Gilman B. Smith, at the
office of the Baltimore Patri-
OBSERVATIONS.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

On the Origin of Typhus Fever, in which its Contagious or Non-contagious nature is considered.

(Continued from page 58.)

REMOTE CAUSES OF TYPHUS.—The remote exciting cause of typhus is peculiar, but there are certain circumstances which favor the operation of this cause, and which may be called the predisposing causes, all of which operate in one mask, namely, by producing debility. It is in this way, if an army be in full retreat, the minds of the men being harassed, and their bodies enervated, and if they pass over, and especially if they rest in, a district where the malaria prevails, typhus is almost sure to break out amongst them. It is on the same principle that famine becomes the predisposing cause of typhus, for then people experience physical want with mental distress. The history of this fever in Ireland has often been connected with scarcity, of which many proofs might be given. The epidemic which occurred in and about London, in the year 1818, shows the influence of the same cause; many of the poor were then almost starving, and the summer having been unusually hot, they were very much predisposed to the attacks of typhus. Fasting predisposes powerfully in some; thus, if a man go out without his breakfast and fatigue himself by a long walk or business, he is very liable to be attacked by this disorder, if exposed to the exciting occasion. It is for the same reason, namely, that of depressing the mental and physical powers, that fear operates so decidedly in predisposing to this affection. The Romans were so well aware of this, that they had no less than three temples in different parts of Italy, to inspire the people with confidence, dedicated to the goddess Fibris. In modern Turkey, the doctrine of predestination prevails among the natives, and travellers assert that they are less liable to plague than strangers who do not believe in that doctrine to the same extent. Charms were worn in ancient times, and incantations performed for the purpose of communicative influence; nay, even in the present times, people often put camphor bags about their necks, which give the wearers courage, and courage is the best preventive of typhus. The weather also powerfully predisposes to the influence of infection, especially damp still weather, and therefore the autumn generally favors its operation. Cold is supposed by some to cause typhus, but it is merely a concurrent one, by weakening the body. Women, upon the whole, are more liable than men, but the strongest individual may be attacked, if exposed to a continued malady, or marsh miasm. Formerly I believed, that human contagion was the primary and sole exciting cause of typhus fever; but having been accidentally led into a new path of inquiry, and having discovered, to myself, at least, satisfactorily, that I was mistaken in this respect, the only reparation which I can make is thus publicly to acknowledge my error, and

however humiliating such an acknowledgment might be to human pride, yet I have the reward of possessing what I hold to be the truth at last.

It is now nearly six years since I attended an individual who had an intermittent fever or ague, distinctly marked by the cold, hot, and sweating stages, followed by a perfect intermission, and having got certain intervals. But a few days, this fever lost the intermittent type, it became distinctly remittent for a few days, and then this remittent changed its character and became continued, and at last assumed the most malignant symptoms of typhus. This case made so deep an impression on my mind, that I could not help asking, whether intermittent fever, remittent fever, and the continued fever, called typhus, might not be modifications of one and the same disorder? At all events, I determined to investigate the subject most minutely, and commenced it independently of the former prejudice of my college education, as if, indeed, I had known nothing previously on the subject. The result of my inquiries is, that I believe malaria to be the primary source of what is commonly denominated typhus fever, that this fever has an intermittent, remittent, and continued form, and that each of these forms so pass and repass into each other as to show that they are all really modifications of one affection, as far as their remote exciting cause is concerned. Having imagined, on collegiate authority, for a term of fifteen years, that typhus originated from a remote contagion, and having discovered this opinion to be erroneous, the very relation of such a circumstance ought to teach you how cautiously you should be in forming your opinions on matters of importance; that you should not, in fact, take them up among the assertions of others, but deduce them from a consideration of facts, viewed neither through a medium of prejudice, nor of partiality, with respect to particular persons. When I communicated this change of my opinion to some of my acquaintances, I have been so much amused to observe how it has been received. One shrugs up his shoulders, hems, and says that it is very strange; another coaks his eye into a corner, puts his hand into his pocket and smiles, sarcastically smiles; a third shakes his head, and swears that typhus not only arises from, but propagates itself by contagion; while a fourth strokes his chin, seems at a stand, and says that it is a subject which certainly requires further investigation. Now if at the end of this lecture you should stroke your chins, and make a similar declaration, I shall be perfectly content, for all that I wish is, not that you should adopt my opinion, but that you should investigate for yourselves, with all that sincerity, with all that purity of mind which its great importance to society demands.

But to come to the facts: What are the facts which justify this opinion that typhus arises from malaria? I shall now adduce those which I have delivered from this place for some years past, and which, I believe, when taken together, will deem perfectly conclusive as to the primary source from which typhus proceeds:

1. Typhus often arises simultaneously, in single cases, in places remote from each other. This circumstance frequently occurs both in and about London, and I ask, how is it to be explained on the doctrine of contagion, no direct or indirect course having existed, by persons or things in these situations?

2. Typhus very often attacks many persons at the same time, and in the same place. An instance of this occurred sometime ago, in which several children were attacked in one day, in a school where no fever had previously prevailed. How is that to be explained on the doctrine of contagion?

3. Where many persons are attacked in the same place or district, if you trace the history of the cases minutely backwards, you will generally find that some appeared under an intermittent, some under a remittent, and others under a continued form, a fact for which the doctrine of contagion cannot account.

4. These forms, namely, the intermittent, remittent, and continued, pass and repass into each other in many cases, the intermittent becoming remittent, and the remittent becoming continued; while, on the other hand, the continued sometimes becomes remittent, and the remittent sometimes intermittent; and does the doctrine of contagion at all explain this conversion? It certainly does not, whereas the doctrine of malaria does, since it produces an intermittent, remittent, and continued fever, convertible into each other, a peculiarity which is not observable, so far as I know, from any other remote occasion whatever.

5. Typhus prevails most remarkably in particular places. The common opinion is, that it prevails only in crowded situations, but this is a great mistake, as can be easily proved by an advertisement to facts, which are exhibited within the metropolis, and without its boundaries in the most open districts of the country. A house had been shut up for sometime, when two young persons, who had been visiting in the country, returned to it, and were shortly afterwards seized with typhus fever, yet the house was situated in one of the most airy parts of the town, where I have known other cases to arise. Sometime ago, I was riding over a common one day, with a medical acquaintance, many miles distant from London, and he pointed out certain widely scattered cottages in which typhus fever occurred and a remittent and continued character. It prevails in some particular spots, not only in London, but also in the vicinity, sometimes in solitary houses, and sometimes in the most beautiful villages, especially in one only a few miles distant. The cause of this occurs in foreign countries, in Italy, in America, and in Turkey, indeed there is scarcely a district in London in which it does not appear, but much more in some than in others. There is one district in particular, situated partly in one parish and partly in another, where I have traced the rise of typhus, at different times, for nearly half a century back: and it is a most curious fact, that it thus occurs in certain parts, or rather patches of the metropolis, as if limited by lines, beyond which

Two dollars per annum. All communications must be post-paid, and addressed to the Proprietor.
it does not pass. Can the doctrine of contagion explain this phenomenon?

6. The origin of typhus is connected with certain states of the air as well as of the earth. It is most frequently found in that state of the atmosphere when the temperature varies from about 90 to 80 degrees. It hardly prevails at all in winter, if the air be cold, and the earth locked up by a frost; it usually appears more rife in the spring, still more so in the summer, and most of all in autumn, when the air is still, thick, and warm in the middle of the day, and when the putrefactive process on the earth's surface is, perhaps, the most active and general. Since April 1824, to the present time, December 1824, typhus fever has been more than usually prevalent, apparently from the influence of the warm moist weather; but to show that the earth and air are both concerned in the production of its original cause, I may mention, that while it has been very common in several districts which I could name, it has not occurred, as far as my observations have gone, in others, especially in Islington, in the higher parts of Kensington, and about Wimbledon-common, which are high and gravely situated, and which have been remarkably exempted from the visitations of typhus. What is still more striking; a friend of mine, who resides in Norfolk, and who frequently used to meet with typhus in his district, arising from malaria, under an intermittent, remittent, and continued form—what is very remarkable, I say, is, that he has not met with any cases for some time; and the reason of that is, because the district usually infected by malaria, has been covered by one continuous wave of water from the heavy rains, but he is sure to meet with it when the water subsides, and when a slme is presented to the sun, as happens in Egypt from the overflowing and subsiding of the Nile.

Leonard, 1825.

LECTURES ON PHRENOLOGY.

RECENTLY DELIVERED IN LONDON, BY DR. EBURNHEIM.

ADHERENCES.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I come now to a power which has never hitherto been considered as fundamental, it is that manifestation of power which brings together so as to constitute society. Philosophers have assigned many causes for the formation of societies, and we see that society itself is an institution of the Creator. Beings have been disposed to live in society from the beginning, and the reasons assigned for it hitherto have entirely failed. None of the powers commonly ascribed to society can be explained by it. If society was the cause of determinate powers, should not all beings living in society manifest similar powers? But this is not the case, we find very opposite powers manifested by beings living in society. If you examine nature, you will find that some animals like to live alone, others in flocks; what is the cause of their living in flocks? Philosophers, who reason about the flocks, say, that animals congregate to defend themselves, and that weakness is the cause of their association, and that among mankind interest brings us together, and that there are no other reasons. But is it true that weak animals live only in society? Look at the dogs, the hares and the rabbit. Bring hares and rabbits together, the hares will soon make the rabbits run, and the rabbits will live together, whilst the hares will remain alone. Have you ever seen large herds of foxes, or large flocks of magpies? The fox and the magpie live alone, whilst the hares do not. It will not be disputed, that weak animals, like to live in large companies. You will never find that animals, being weak, associate together to defend themselves; there is an organization, which gives the power of bringing them together. If you reflect a little more upon society, you will find that beings live together in pairs, male and female; the rooks live together in great numbers; many build their nests on the same tree, but they live together in pairs on the different branches. We find that mankind, although we have a tendency to live in families, which are united pairs, that make up the larger family, that is, the society.

So, if we would find the feeling of friendship, we must look for it in the modifications of the feeling which gives rise to it, and first of that one which is called friendship. Among mankind, every one must have observed, that some individuals never show any attachment to others, and, again, there are persons who are so attached to each other, that if you separate them they are never happy. In a peculiar modification you observe the influence of this feeling, among animals, especially among dogs; not only do they become much attached to each other, but they become also attached to man, and they have given many very striking proofs of this feeling. It is more active in some individuals than in others, and it is more active in females, generally speaking; than in males. I fear I have sometimes offended females by comparing them with animals, but I merely mean to say, that as following the manifestations of nature, we must observe that certain feelings or propensities are more active in females than in the other sex, and very wisely is it provided that it should be so, as I have before explained.

Is this feeling attached to any organization? We say yes, in the most positive way. Nature has given a part of the brain in order to attach beings to each other, and the situation of it is here, posteriorly, on both sides of the transverse fissure. If you find this cerebral part large, you may depend upon it that such individuals are very fond of attaching themselves to beings around them. This feeling induces beings to become attached to persons, as the preceding does to places. I say that this feeling is found in animals, and you then call it a moral feeling. We see it in beings not at all famous for their moral actions. There are certain communities very much attached to each other. We find that criminals form great attachments to each other, and some have killed themselves rather than betray their companions, whilst others do mischief to their friends, and even have killed them. The more you reflect on this feeling, you will see that it is of an inferior kind. Let us see examples: I have already said that this feeling is stronger in women than in men, and if we compare this part of the head, which is marked No. 4, in both sexes, we shall find that it is much more developed in females. (Specimens are then shown; casts taken from the heads of persons known to be very fond of each other.) Dogs form great attachment to their masters, perhaps they may become the property of others, who may treat them even better than their former masters, yet they will run away from them to their first masters; and in dogs this part of the head is much developed. Here is the case of an individual who murdered his friend—patent, of your country; look at his head, and see whether this part is not very definite. In proportion to the development of this part, you may be always sure that this feeling will be found more or less active, it never fails to be so, as far as I have observed.

ACCIDENTS ARISING FROM ACUPUNCTURE.

M. Aumont has related some remarks on the case of an officer, on whom he had practised acupuncture of the abdomen, for extremely severe pains situated there, which he could not relieve by any means he had used. The first needle was introduced two fingers' breadth from the umbilicus, and caused great pain; the second was then passed on a level with the first, along the inner edge of the muscle on the right side. This second puncture was scarcely made, when the patient fainted; and, on recovering himself, he was affected with very excruciating pain and heat in that part of the abdomen, which were quickly followed by general fever. The patient came into the Val de Grace, where this state lasted for some days, and then yielded to an antiphlogistic treatment; but the pains for which he had submitted to acupuncture were not the least changed, nor did this method relieve him.

M. Becquart mentions, on this subject, that feeling is a consequence of treatment from acupuncture, and which he had very recently observed in the case of an individual, into whose abdomen he had passed five needles, on account of an extremely severe rheumatic pain situated upon his shoulder, and which had since disappeared. He considers the operation as by no means free from risk, and quotes the case of a peron into whose leg he had passed a needle, to relieve a severe pain there. No sooner was the needle introduced, (doing which gave great pain,) than the patient was seized with syncope, lasting for hours. He was afterwards said to have yielded to acupuncture, rising to high delirium. This nervous excitement gradually abated, but the patient remained the whole of the day in a state of torpor or dulness, which at length disappeared. An abscess was afterwards slowly formed at the seat of the puncture. — Archives generales.

TO CORRECT THE VITATED ATMOSPHERE IN BED-CHAIRM.

Small closets and concealed beds are extremely injurious, especially to young people and infants. When persons are from necessity obliged to sleep in them, it will be advisable early morning, immediately after rising, to displac 
all the bed-clothes, and if the sky be serene, to open the door and windows. The various methods which luxury has invented to make houses close and warm, contribute not a little to a render them unwholesome. No house can be wholesome unless the air has a free passage through it. For which reason, houses ought daily to be ventilated by opening opposite windows, and admitting a current of fresh air into every room. Beds, instead of being made up as soon as people rise out of them, ought to be turned down, and exposed to the fresh air from the open windows through the day. This will expel any noxious vapour and cannot fail to promote the health of the inhabitants.

In Germany, in the hot days of summer, especially in houses exposed to the meridian sun, a capacious vessel filled with cold water is placed in the middle of a room; and a few green branches (as many as it will hold), of lime, birch, or willow-tree, are plunged with the lower ends into the fluid. By this easy expedient, the apartment in a short time, rendered much cooler; the evaporation of the water producing this desirable effect in sultry weather, without any detriment to health. Besides, the exhalation of green plants, under the influence of the solar rays, greatly tends to purify the air; but care must be taken that they do not remain in the apartment after nightfall, or in the shade.

The purity of air may be also restored by wetting a cloth in water mixed with quick lime, hanging it in a room until it become dry, and renewing the operation so long as it appears needful.

REVIEW.

Report of the Trial of an Action, Charles Lowell against John Faxon and Misujah Howes, Doctors in Medicine, Defendants, for Malpractice in the capacity of Physicians and Surgeons, at the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, held at Machias, for the County of Washington—June Term, 1824. Before the Hon. Nathan Weston, J. Justice of the Court. Portland. D. & S. Paine. 1825. (Concluded from page 60.)

We now come to the opinions given in the trial—and we might here express our astonishment at their extraordinary duration, and the manner in which they are so coherently advanced, if it were not everywhere proverbial that "doctors disagree." The difficulties, however, of always absolutely ascertaining the position of a dislocated femur, from the complication and derangement of the parts—the changes which speedily take place after the accident, and the difficulty of reduction—lessen, in no small degree, our surprise at the remarkable discrepancy in the present case. On such a subject, too, "it is much easier to speculate wisely, than to execute skillfully. Some men may entertain the best theory in the world, and yet be utterly unfit for practical service. They may talk sensibly enough, prescribe well, and resolve how to act in any given or supposed emergency; but when the trying crisis arrives, they know not how to avail themselves of the peculiar features and circumstances of the case, or when to seize upon the favorable moment for prompt decision, or how to gain access to the heart or understanding; or in what direction to turn the popular current, or whether to exercise extraordinary lenity, or extraordinary severity. They have not the presence of mind, that complete self-possession, that instantaneous and intuitive perception of what is proper and expedient, which alone can command and insure success. They are, in a word, destitute of the natural tact, that infrangible sensibility to every expression of the countenance, and every symptom which a look, a look, or a movement may indicate, and which, though it is superior to all art, and can never be learned in any school."

Dr. Hawks, in the present case, pronounced the dislocation to be accompanied with fracture of the acetabulum. Dr. Nathan Smith, whose opinion, though by no means infallible, is to be respected in matters of Surgery, observes distinctly that no dislocation exists, and perhaps never did exist, and that if there is any derangement of the bones, it is merely a fracture. Dr. Brown, an old and very respectable physician and surgeon, whose opinion is entitled to great weight, and whose character we are sorry the counsel for the defendant has so unhappily mistaken, is decidedly of opinion that it was originally a simple luxation—while the faculty of Boston, who assisted in the second operation, agree nem. con. that it was a backward and downward dislocation in the ischial notch.

In opposition to the faculty of Boston, we find arrayed the testimony of Dr. Smith, and the opinion of Sir Astley Cooper, the former of whom may be mistaken, while we are certain the latter is not always in contumely correct; and he allows the possibility of such a dislocation. It was, indeed, a fortunate circumstance for the defendants that they were put in possession of the last edition of Sir Astley Cooper's work, in which he declares unequivocally, that there is no such accident as a backward and downward dislocation of the hip. He, indeed, admits the dislocation in the ischial notch, but declares it must be backward and upward. Whether this opinion is to be taken in opposition to the Boston faculty, in the present case, we leave to others to determine. Arrayed, as it was, 'tis the pomp and circumstance of confident assertion, it unquestionably had great weight with the court and jury, and operated in a small degree to the success of the defendants.

The difference of opinion in the case, is certainly the most remarkable—and to medical jurisprudentially the most important part of the Trial. It seems to be a contest of interest and feeling and passion—skill and learning and experience on the one hand, and error of judgment and positive assumption on the other. How any man, from the circumstances of the case, can believe the hip is not dislocated, is to us unaccountable—and to tell the patient so, seems to be planting thorns upon his pillow, to good and harm him for the remainder of his life. —

Dr. Hawks is a gentleman of considerable experience in his profession, and is allowed by Dr. Smith to be a good anatomist. He has operated successfully in two or three cases of luxation of the hip joint, and prophesied correctly when he told Lowell that a mis-step might cripple him for life. If he erred in giving an opinion on the last state of Lowell's case, he was not in this surpassed by Dr. Smith, who, we believe, is now unwilling to speak confidently on the subject.

We might say something of the competence exercised by the counsel towards the faculty, who were not particularly interested in favor of the defendants; but it may, perhaps, be pardoned in such a situation, and in so important a case—and we cannot but think they felt due courtesy towards those, whose opinion he is so often obliged to refer to, to strengthen the most important parts of his defense. Dr. Warren is certainly one of the best anatomists, and one of the most expert and successful operators of the age, and whose opinions in matters of surgery is not, perhaps, to be yielded to that of any other person on this side of the Atlantic.

Feeling, as we do, a mingled sentiment of indignation and pity, at the conduct and misfortunes of the unfortunate sufferer, which have given rise to the above Report, we cannot conclude this hasty notice, without an earnest hope that he will compromise his feelings with the "Good Samaritan," mitigate the ingratitude of an unrighteous prosecution, sustain with resignation the ill his flesh is heir to, and upon which he may forever speculate without satisfaction, and the true nature of which death and dissection can alone fully develop to a curious and interested public.

Long as this article appears, it is but a mere outline of a subject of immense importance to the professional community. New and various surgical facts are before us, and surely they deserve investigation. Because they come before us as novelties, they are not to be neglected, nor should those who strive with the most industry to raise the medical character of our country, be treated like outlaws and villains. The difference of opinion which has given color to this legal transaction, among the different eminent surgeons, does not, in our humble estimation, involve the professional reputation of a single individual: on the contrary, we have the strongest hopes that it will lead to inquiry—and if it is conducted in a proper temper, instead of injuring the usefulness, or bringing the chirurgical knowledge of any one of the faculty in question, it may be the direct means of bringing forward Dr. Warren as the discriminator, as well as describer, of a peculiar kind of dislocation, which, though not unknown to Sir Astley Cooper, yet with all his opportunities and experience, he has never seen. While we highly respect the opinion of Sir Astley Cooper, we would not be thought to consider him the only authority in practical surgery. We are perfectly aware that great diversity of opinions, among the most learned and respected authors, has existed in relation to this very subject, which has caused so much legal investigation, and which has given birth to this trial: different sides have been taken, according to the experience of different men—and the fact that Sir Astley has never met with a like case, in thirty years' practice, does not disprove its existence, but only shows its infrequency; and further, it explains to us, in the plainest language, why he should not believe in such a case. "Audi alteram partem"—hear both sides, is as good a maxim in a medical as in a legal discussion.

The more we examine this trial, the warmer we feel, because there is a convincing testimony of something in it important to the medical world. It appears that the most distinguished of the Boston faculty—whoon the counsel seemed to treat with unwarrantable levity—discouraged the prosecution, as they had a fair opportunity of examining the case, and no possible motive for misrepresentation. We do suppose they may have, or at least, ought to say a word on their own account, and on the whole, it is not improbable, that a full and distinct exposition of their own opinions, might give an entirely different aspect than that which the bare opinion of Sir Astley seems to present.

It is becoming too fashionable among a certain class of physicians, to court popularity, by finding fault with their superiors. Sarcely a month has passed away, since an eminent surgeon, (Dr. Batchelder), performed an important operation, which not only saved a valuable life, but does honor to the medical character of
New-England, and up comes a host of mushroom crit- 
critics, like gad-dies round a lion; but few listen to their 
what but themselves, and their stings are as harmless 
their influence is limited. —Dr Hawks has been 
ill-treated and wronged; but his character has been estab-
lished, his merits conceded, and if now improves the 
remainder of his professional life, with a firm determina-
tion to be a useful man, public confidence awaits 
him on the one hand, and honor and blessings on the 
other.

VARIETIES.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGE IN THE DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA.—The Columbian College in the District of 
Columbia, was instituted by an act of the Congress of 
the United States, in the winter of 1824. In the sum-
mer of 1824, the Medical Department was organized, 
and professors appointed; and in March, 1825, a course 
of Lectures commenced on the different branches of 
Medicine. In order to embrace all the benefits of a 
winter to each Professor for the course an annual commence-
ment on the first Monday in November, and continue to 
the last of February. During this period, Lectures will be 
delivered daily, and full courses be given on the vari-
cous subjects of Medical Science. 

THOMAS SWAIL, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and 
Physiology. JAMES M. STAGGART, M. D. Professor of 
Surgery. THOMAS HENDERSON, M. D. Professor of the 
Practice of Medicine and Natural History. W. V.
WASHINGTON, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica. 
EDWARD CUTHSH, M. D. Professor of Chemistry. 
FREDERICK MAX, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics. 
The Medical College, situated in a central part of the city, 
being a DEMOCRAT from the Capitol and President's 
House, is a commodious building, and well fitted up 
with apartments suited to the purpose of the school.

The following extracts are from the Laws adopted by 
the Board of Trustees for the government of the Medical 
Department: "Each Student, before he can receive 
ticket of any Professor, shall pay five dollars to the 
Treasurer of the College, shall have name enrolled 
with the Treasurer, and receive ticket of matricu-
lation, as evidence that he has placed himself under 
the government of the Trustees and Medical Professors. 
The fees for attendance on the Lectures shall be 15 
dollars a year, to every Professor for the course. No Student 
shall be admitted to examination for a Medical degree, 
till—1st. He shall have attended each Professor during 
two full courses, or one full course in this College, 
and be enrolled in one of the respective Medical Institute 
(21). He shall have studied three years under the direc-
tion of some regular Physician. 3d. He shall have sat 
the Medical Professors of his classical attainments, 
if he be not a graduate in the Arts. 4th. He shall 
prove that he has written for the Medical Department, 
as a candidate for graduation, and 
delivered to him an Inaugural Dissertation on some 
Medical subject, thirty days, at least, before the close of 
the course. Before a candidate can receive the degree 
of M. D. he must pay 50 dollars, to the Medical Profess-
ors for examination, and 5 dollars to the 'Treasurer 
of the College for his diploma.'

HYDROPHOBIA.—A child in Upper Canada, bit by a 
man dog, and exhibiting the usual appearance in the 
sublingual glands, has been perfectly restored, by the 
care of Dr. Macaulay, of Montreal, after an accompanied 
to the pimpler and tumours beneath the tongue. 
These tumours made their appearance on the evening 
of the tenth day after the bite, and were immediately dis-
posed of by the lancet. The same process of every 
appearance of the tumors, produced a cure of this 
alarming disease in about a week. —N. Y. Statesman.

HALF-PAY SURGEONS.—The pay established—called 
halp-pay, to British Naval Surgeons, when they retire 
from office, is as follows. —Physicians, after 10 years 
service, per diem, 12L. 1r. After 3 years service, 15L. 
Under that time, 10L. 6s. Surgeons, six years service, 
6L. 10s. per diem. Surgeons, eight years service, 
2L. 10s. per diem. Surgeons, two years service, 2L. 
Dispensers of medicine, 5L.

THE TRIAL.—Mr Atherton has finally got a verdict 
in his favor, against the editor of the ,Laurel, for 
publishing his lectures,—but the latter gentleman says 
he shall appeal to the house of Peers. —Had his lord-
ship, (the chancellor) been better acquainted with the 
history of the case, he could not be the slightest doubt 
that his decision would have been different; and in 
the house of Peers, after our witnesses shall have been 
examined, we confidently anticipate that his lordship will 
be subjected to the influence of a powerful faction, favor-
izing the lectures of all Protected Hospital Surgeons. 13

SMALL FOX.—The Chews Intelligencer states, that 
the College of Charleston has a medical degree from 
capital of South Carolina, under circumstances which 
render it probable its devastations will be extensive.

PRISON.—An insane woman in Salem, Conn. lately 
went six miles to procure laudanum, some of which she 
administered to her two children, and some she took 
herself. One child died—the other, and the woman 
recovered.—Palladium.

DYSENTERY.—The Concord (N. H.) Repository says 
that in that town and several others in the vicinity, 
an unusual degree of sickness has prevailed since the 
extreme heat in July. The disorder most com-
mon, is the dysentery.

MUMMIFICATION.—In England Dr Granville has dis-
covered a perfect human skeleton in a pot, near 
died, and the disease. He has also discovered the 
mode of Mummification," so as to have successfully 
practised it. —Franklin.

L. B. COOKER.—This gentleman, a well known 
resident of Middleburg, Maryland, has been elected an 
honorary member of the Medical Society of Delaware.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We beg a little indulgence 
for the revision of Dr Mudge's treatise on Phys-
icsus. As we are so plentifully supplied with 
previous articles, it has been impossible to give it a place, 
without neglecting those who have a prior claim. 
A most delightful and full course of ten lectures, by 
M. D. Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Clin-
ical Practice, in Transylvania University, we have been 
presented with an octavo pamphlet, of one hundred 
pages, entitled Elements of Phrlogy. It was so re-
cently received, we have not yet time to give it a thorough perusal, —and although we have been the most creditous persons in existence, in relation to phr-
ological doctrines, Can work has given an entire 
ew direction to our thoughts. The style is excellent, 
and we recommend the book to our friends, as something 
which abounds with more common sense, than any 
other publication on this interesting subject, which is now 
exhausted. We call it the most complete and 
usual lectures at any regularly incorporated medical school, 
in which the lectures are given by an equal number of 
lecturers or professors, are admitted gratuitously. 
The lectures are delivered in the Medical Department 
or moral character, three years study (including the time 
devoted to lectures) with a regularly practicing physi-
ian an adequate knowledge of the Latin language, and 
attendence on all the lectures of the preceding year. 
These must be lodged with the Dean of the Faculty. —

FACULTY.—John P. Batchelder, M. D. Surgery 
and Physiology—Jerome V. Smith, M. D. General 
Anatomy and Physiology—Henry H. Childs, M. D. Theory 
and Practice of Medicine; William H. Todd, M. D. 
Path. Med. Pharm. and Obstetrics—Stephen W. 
Williams, M. D. Medical Jurisprudence—Charles Dewey, 
Fees for the whole course, 40 dollars. Graduating 
Fee, 12 dollars. Matriculating Ticket, 3 dollars. 
Tickets of admission for those who wish to attend the 
Lectures on Botany, Mineralogy, Chemistry, and Natural 
History, are given gratuitously. Board, including washing 
lodging and room-rent, 1.75 per week. The 
Shearer Premiums of twenty dollars each will be, 
distributed in the following manner, viz. —One to the 
graduate from the last graduating class; another to the 
student of the present graduating class; another to the 
student of the next succeeding class, who shall present the 

Those gentlemen in Boston and vicinity, who purpose attending the ensuing term, are 
much advised to note to the Doctor in the Medical Intelligence Office. Those at a distance 
and in other States, will secure the same convenience, 
without additional expense, by writing to Dr Childs, 
at the Institution.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION, 
August 16, 1855. 

Subscriptions for the Medical Intelligence will be re-
ceived in Baltimore by Dr Gerard B. Smith, at 
the office of the Baltimore Patriot.
the order detail, thus candle, seat is peculiar many Mariotte, ingenuity, organs thus The range to the reconcile body, when noxious.

The phenomenon discovered by Mariotte, that objects become invisible when their images were received on that part of the retina which corresponds to the extremity of the optic nerve, on its entrance into the globe of the eye. The hypothesis by which Mariotte attempted to explain this fact, and on which he ventured to build a new theory of Vision, assuming its seat to be the choroid coat, instead of the retina, was shown, from several considerations, to be erroneous.

Dr. Roget also pointed out a curious circumstance attending this phenomenon, namely, that the defect of sensibility in that particular portion of the retina did not, in any case, give rise to the perception of a black spot in the field of Vision, which would have been apparent if a part possessed of sensibility to light were to receive no impression of light whatever.

The convergence of the optic axes to a point at the same distance as the object viewed, is necessary in order to give rise to a single perception of that object; for it is only under these circumstances that similar images will be made to fall upon parts of the retina of each eye, similarly situated with regard to their respective axes; and in this case, the law of projection, explained in the preceding lecture, finds its application also to the phenomena of singleness of Vision when both eyes are employed. The movements required in the eye, in order to produce these adjustments of the optic axes, and the efforts of which we are conscious while we make them, furnish means of judging of the distances of the objects viewed. It is found, accordingly, that when one eye only is used, it is generally difficult to estimate distances with precision, or to perform actions, such as snuffing a candle, or threading a needle, which require this accurate estimation of distances.

The theory which has been laid down by several metaphysical writers, with regard to the system of corresponding points in the two retinas, has received a very remarkable confirmation by the singular affection of Vision to which some persons are liable, namely, that of seeing only one half of every object to which they direct their eyes. Dr. Wollaston, who has investigated this subject in a paper which has been lately published in the Philosophical Transactions, was led by these facts to the knowledge of the probable distribution of the fibres of the optic nerve, and of the reason of their partial crossing, or semi-decussation, as he terms it, after they issue from the brain, and before they enter into the orbits of the eye on each side. It thus appears that the sympathy which exists between the corresponding points of the retina, is not merely the result of experience or of habit, but has a foundation in the original structure of the organs themselves, by which the impressions are conveyed to the sensorium. Still, however, this sympathy does not extend farther than the occasion calls for, since it does not take place with regard to colors.

Dr. Roget next proceeded to institute a comparison between the Organ of Vision in man and in the inferior animals. Although many of the mammals, he observed, possess parts which are not met with in the human eye, there is no part found in the latter which is altogether peculiar to man. The central focus, and yellow transplanted over into the human eye by Sommerring, has been found to exist in many species of apes, both of the old and new continent, and also in some species of lizards. The inclination of the optic axes to the vertical plane passing through the middle of the head, was traced in various tribes of quadrupeds, from the human conformation, in which they are nearly parallel, to those animals in which they form a very obtuse angle, or almost coincide into a straight line, so that each eye has for its field of vision portions of separate hemispheres. This gradation, with regard to the internal position of the parts, was also traced in the class of birds and reptiles. The remarkable violation of the law of symmetry which takes place in the family of pleurocetes, or flat fish, as they are called, in which both the eyes, as well as the mouth, are placed on one side of the body, was noticed; its consequences traced, in the singular distortion observable in all the organs of the senses of these animals. The forms and situations of the orbits, and the course taken by the optic nerves, which sometimes decussate and at other times cross one another without any decussation were described. The relative magnitude of the eye, as compared with the size of the body, also afforded matter for many interesting remarks; as illustrating the connexion of structure with the modes of life to which each respective species of animal is destined by Nature. Thus, while she has, on the one hand, bestowed great acuteness of sight on predacious animals, which pursue their prey by the chase; she has also, on the other hand, endowed those that are subject to be pursued, with corresponding powers of vision, that they might be enabled to discover their enemies from afar, and fly from the threatened danger. The peculiarities of the eyes of nocturnal animals, and in those which, like the mole, burrow under ground, were noticed; as also the singular conformation of the mus typhlus, or blind rat, the zemi of Pallas, in which a minute black point, concealed under the skin, is the only vestige that can be traced of the Organ of Vision. The various forms of the pupil in different quadrupeds, its range of contraction, and voluntary movements in the cat kind; the fringed curtain belonging to the upper part of the iris in the horse; the transverse lines exhibited in the retina of the hare and rabbit; were explained in detail, and exhibited in drawings and preparations.

The most remarkable peculiarity in the eyes of quadrupeds occurs in the part which has been termed the tapetum, where, from the absence of pigmentum nigrum, and the glistening polished surface of the tunica rayschiana, the most brilliant colors are reflected. The attempts which have been made to trace a connexion between these colors, and the particular habits of the animal with regard to the procuring of its food, were stated, and shown to be fallacious in numberless instances. The color of the iris has a relation to the color of the hair; so that even in spotted dogs and rabbits the iris frequently exhibits a similar mixture of different colors.

The different modes in which the cornea is joined to the sclerotic coat were next adverted to; and the structure and uses of the suspensory or cianoanoid muscle, as it has been called, which is peculiar to quadrupeds, and exists neither in the human species nor in the monkey tribe, were pointed out. The mechanism of the rectifying membrane, or third eyelid, was described, and the purposes to which it is subservient in the lower animals, were explained.

The remainder of the Lecture was employed, in giving an account of the principal circumstances worthy of notice in the eyes of Birds.

The chief peculiarities in their internal structure are manifestly intended to facilitate the vision of objects through a medium of great rarity, and to infer a very extensive power of accommodation to perfect Vision at various distances. The security afforded to the sclerotic coat by the provision of a circle of bony plates, which are slightly movable upon one another, is thus rendered compatible with sufficient alteration of shape in the coats of the eye to admit of this wide range of adaptation. The curious plicated structure of the narine, which arises from the optic nerve and retina, and extends a considerable way into the vitreous humor, is provided for some purpose, which, notwithstanding the numerous conjectures that have been hazarded on the subject, is still involved in obscurity, and of which it is extremely difficult to reconcile the operation with any of the known principles of optics.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

On the Origin of Typhus Fever, in which its Contagious or Non-contagious nature is considered.

(Continued from page 52.)

Some facts may now be adduced to show that typhus really does arise from a peculiar terrestrial exhalation. A very respectable man whom I attended, and who labored under a very severe continued typhus, marked by petechia, brown tongue, and enlarged glands in the groin, contracted the affection, with four or five other persons, from having stood in a kitchen, the floor of
which had been overflowed by a slimy and offensive fluid from choked drains. Before I retired from my late office as Physician to the Fever Hospital, a man, his wife, and two children were sent in, all affected by typhus. The account which this man and his wife gave of themselves was this, that they had been into the house adjoining to their own when the family had fever, and that they had caught it there. I went to the village from which these people came, and took one of my pupils with me, but on inquiry we found that the fever which had taken place in the adjoining house was the scarlet fever, and that it had occurred more than four months before this man's family had been attacked by typhus. This may caution you as to the implicit reception of human testimony. On further investigation I ascertained, that the fever which had appeared in this family in some had been intermittent, in others had been remittent in the beginning and had afterwards become continued. Besides this was the spot where typhus usually broke out in that village, and it was surrounded by an open common sewer. A young physician, a pupil of mine, lodged in a house, the mistress of which was attacked by typhus, the drains being in a bad situation and state. She recovered. Sometime, several weeks indeed afterwards, the servant was attacked, and also recovered; but my young friend took the alarm about malaria and changed his lodgings. Many months afterwards he returned to this house, and being fatigued by long walks, and broken up by hard study, he had not been there long till he fell like manner was attacked by typhus, but he also got well. There is a house in the Borough, in which I have attended three persons successively for typhus, the last of whom was one of my pupils, and he informed me, from inquiries made after his recovery, that though in a few years the families had been repeatedly changed, yet that some of the members of each family had been attacked. A common open sewer runs behind the house. The Borough is one of the districts where malaria prevails, and the drains are in a very bad state in many places. Again, at the west end of the town, I have observed typhus to break out suddenly, and clearing out of a foul dirt-hole. A friend of mine, who practised long in Demarara, came to the same conclusions, namely, that typhus arose from malaria, and that it was intermittent, remittent, or continued. On one occasion typhus attacked a great number of the soldiers in the barracks; and walking one day round with an officer he observed that the pales were blackened at a particular spot, and as the wind blew from that quarter towards the barracks, it struck them, that the cause of the fever emanated from that spot. It was examined, and it was found to be an old drain, which had been filled up with vegetable matter then in a state of putrefaction. It was cleared out, and typhus disappeared from the barracks. My friend met with other examples of the same kind equally remarkable. Now I ask you as honest men of common sense, I ask you as the pure guardians of the public welfare, and the genuine lovers of the medical science, whether all these facts, relatively and conjuntively considered, do not show that malaria, and not human contagion, is the private source of typhus fever? The investigation of the circumstances under which malaria is formed is one of the most important to which a philosopher and philanthropist can direct his mind and heart. The formation of this miasm seems to be connected with a certain degree of moisture and warmth, favoring the decomposition perhaps both of animal and vegetable matter. Dr. Dwight, an American divine and traveller, has perhaps made the nearest approach to the discovery of the truth. When he was traveling on the lakes of America, he found that typhus did not prevail round the margin of lakes, which were fed by natural springs, and which were bright upon the surface; but, on the contrary, it did prevail around the margin of those artificial lakes which, not being thus fed, were not only dull upon the surface, but covered occasionally by a dirty film, which, on experiment, he found to be the putrefactive product of animalcula which are existent in vegetable matter. But I would strongly recommend you to investigate this subject, since it involves the question of the prevention of a disorder which exists in most parts of the world.

Typhus fever, in proportion to the population, was much more prevalent in London formerly than it is now, and this may be accounted for by the improvement which has taken place in the ventilation, draining, and general cleanliness of the city. Erasmus mentions that in the time of Elizabeth the royal drawing-room was strewn with hay, and we know that the streets were narrow and dirty, the houses ill-drawn, and the general habits of society much less cleanly than at present. Though much yet remains to be done, in many places, I might compare the state of modern London to that of ancient Rome for cleanliness and the preservation of the public health. Celsus, Livy, Strabo, and Virgil, have all alluded to malaria, and unquestionably the health of the people was preserved by the formation of regular cloaca to drain and receive the filth of the city. In the reigned of Augustus curators were appointed to cleanse the streets and keep the cloaca in good condition. The ancient Romans, tempted by their fine climate, lived much in the open air. Besides, as the government conciliated the people as long as any trace of disease existed. Buildings were magnificent, and much frequented by them; and unless great care had been taken as to cleanliness of the earth's surface in particular, typhus must have been very prevalent there. What a contrast between ancient and modern Rome! What a contrast between ancient and modern London! The one has been enslaved, and the other free for ages. Rome is now not only infected by the malaria of the earth, but that worse malaria of the mind, which makes her the very slave of those barbarians whom in her better days she despised; while London nurses within her bosom the pure spirit of independence, which, leading from one improvement to another, has already made her the envy of the world, and which will still be productive of many blessings to present and succeeding times. One distinguished political writer has suggested, that in every government there ought to be a minister of health. Be this as it may, I am sure that London admits of considerable improvement, in reference to the prevention of malaria, and consequently to the prevention of typhus fever.

It is a singular circumstance, that when I first settled in London, the current opinion among the profession was, that typhus fever originated solely in human contagion, and it is remarkable that it should have been reserved for me to discover that mistake in this metropolis. But the discovery, from what I before mentioned, was quite accidental, and I take no credit to myself for having made it, though, when I reflect upon it, it goes to show that because the truth may exist in the profession, the discovery will make its way, the truth will triumph, and prove useful to mankind. Malaria, then, I hold to be the primary source of typhus fever. That I consider as a settled question. But this question involves another, namely, does typhus fever, thus originating, ever become contagious? Does it ever acquire the property of communicating itself to one person to another, like small-pox, measles, or scarlet fever? This, I repeat, is another question, and one that requires an unpredisposed examination.

Many men believe that typhus is contagious, because they have been told so at school or college; precisely on the same principle that children take the assertions of their fathers and mothers as truths upon all subjects. A friend of mine was sitting in his drawing-room, and two of his children were playing about him, and they soon got into an argument, when one of them attempted to settle the matter, by saying that papa said it was so, and that, therefore, it must be true; the other little fellow said, but I know, that if papa said so, he was mistaken, for I saw it myself. His father looked up and exclaimed, what, you little dog, did you say that I was mistaken? Yes, replied he, boldly, if you said so, papa, you were mistaken. Well, rejoined the father, you are a fine fellow, there is a shilling for you, and be sure always to maintain the truth. Now as our fathers and forefathers of physic have often been mistaken, we should not take their assertions as necessary truths, and since they lived in a less enlightened age than the present, we should put them to the test of the most minute investigation.

The question, whether typhus fever is contagious or not, cannot be decided by any reference to black-letter books, or by a reference to facts, and facts alone, contemplated with the most perfect impartiality. You know that I once believed typhus fever to be contagious, but I feel it my duty now to declare, that I have lived to doubt the correctness of that opinion, and shall not decide till I have made the most extended and complete inquiry. But I can say, from a review of a great many cases, that if ever typhus prove contagious, the circumstance of its being so must be rare, and that the public alarm on that subject is not sanctioned by what we have seen in London, for I must repeat again, and again the incontrovertible fact, that this affection exists in certain patches and parts of the metropolis, and yet it never spreads throughout society. It must be re-collected also, that most of the poor remain in their houses till the very last stage of typhus, and consequently, if this disorder were so contagious as is generally believed, it would spread in all directions. If small-pox, measles, and scarlet fever, thus existed in almost every district, and if they were not allowed to advance to the last stage without removal to some hospital, there can be no doubt but each of these affections would be diffused, as it were, all over London. Now why not is why...
HEALTH OF AUGUST.

Thus far, we feel warranted in reporting a general continuance of good health in the northern states, and from general observations on the present state of the atmosphere, there is no particular prospect of any prevailing epidemic the ensuing months. Nor do the students in some parts of Connecticut have expressed alarm, in consequence of the sudden attacks of some few patients, which led them to the supposition that a particular malignant fever, of rather a formidable type, had made its appearance; but, on mature consideration of all the circumstances of those individual cases which have been related, we are inclined to believe there is no danger to be apprehended, especially where so many experienced physicians can be consulted.

Others, from neighboring cities, as well as from the interior, have transmitted occasional accounts of death by cholera morbus, hooping cough, &c.; still, the mortality has not been such as to lead to the conclusion of the existence of any kind of epidemic.

This is the season of infantile diseases, and parents cannot be too kind to those who are unwell, nor too careful in watching those who are in health. The mortality which at times prevails among, and seems exclusively confined to young children, attended, ordinarily, with an affection of the bowels, often arises from want of attention to the quantity of their food, and from the quality. In the autumnal months, they are continually handkerking for those delicious fruits which are now so successfully cultivated, and brought within the reach of the poor as well as the rich, and which, though beneficial if rightly employed—from being permitted a too free and indiscriminate use, denauce the functions of the digestive organs, and totally change the character of the secretions: dyshysteria, beside numerous other maladies, are the immediate results. It is easier to prevent, than to cure diseases; and those, therefore, who are wise, will rather take precaution than medicine.

We notice, with regret, that persons predisposed to a consumptive habit, as the season advances have considerable irritation at the lungs, and a dry cough, accompanied with a quantity of phlegm after rising in the morning, should warn them of the necessity of being up with the sun, and retiring to bed before the night is half exhausted. Instead of being confined to the house, women and children should have daily walks or rides in the open air, however feeble they may be, if they have strength enough for exercise. The evenings are now beginning to be damp and chilly—but sleeping rooms should still be freely ventilated through the day, and persons laboring under any inflammatory affection of the lungs whatever, should moreover be exceedingly particular not to lodge in small, confined apartments. Inattention to this simple circumstance, has undoubtedly hastened the dissolution of many. Good air makes good constitutions.

We recollect that the bills of mortality, in past years, during the fall and winter months, have exhibited an astonishing catalogue of deaths among young ladies—and while they are the dupes of fashions which discard the use of warm and comfortable clothing, they will be unwilling to hearken to any advice which is at war with gauze and muslins. Woman is a tender plant at best, and should be nurtured with the utmost caution: those men who love their wives and daughters as they should be loved, will always have an eye to their exercise and dress; these, properly managed, will prolong their lives, and make them healthy, useful, happy, and interesting beings.

A PROSPECT FOR YOUNG PHYSICIANS.

Some months ago, we were authorized to encourage a certain number of well educated physicians to emigrate to Hayti, and succeeded in procuring a few, whose credentials were such as were required.—It was a severe mortification to be obliged to deny several gentlemen, not only because they were totally ignorant of the French language, but because a majority of the unsuccessful candidates had never attended but one course of public lectures; and consequently could not be in possession of a medical degree, without which no person can be permitted to prescribe, or perform a surgical operation on the island. We have recently received a letter, accompanied by interesting papers, from General Ingano, the Secretary General to his Excellency President Boyer, which assures us that young physicians from the United States would have ample and lucrative employment, and shall be protected and encouraged by the government: but no protection will be afforded unless the individual has been graduated a Doctor of Medicine, at some College or University. The Republic is not destitute of men of art and skill (hommes de lart habilés), yet many more are needed, for there are large communities entirely destitute of physicians, and surgeons are exceedingly scarce.

Two Schools of Medicine have been established, very recently, for the sole purpose of educating a sufficient number of native citizens to protect the public health. One is located at Port au Prince, and placed under the direction of M. Pescay, and the other at Cape Haytien, where Anatomy, Medicine, Physiology, &c. are taught by the celebrated Dr Duncan Stuart.

Public lectures have been commenced, and since the independence of this interesting Republic has been acknowledged by the French government, every encouragement will be given to men of science, in whatever business they may be engaged. They are not in want of medical emnics nor half-fed pupils, for they already abound there as in every other country; but such persons as are qualified for discharging the duties and sustaining the character of professional men, we have reason to believe will never regret their voyage.

MEDICAL DEGREES.

To the Editor of the Medical Intelligencer.

Sir—Observing in your paper of Aug. 9th, under the head of "Medical School of Maine," some stricture on the sparing requirements of candidates for the degree of M. D. the idea recurred that it might not be improper for the public to be apprized of the views entertained by some in other sections of the country. For this purpose the writer takes the liberty of forwarding a copy of proposed ordinances, which were suggested last year to the Vermont State Society for their adoption. They were deferred by a scanty majority at the time—the subject being novel as well as important, and the members not having allowed for deliberation. Some sections were adopted in a modified manner.

1. The Medical Society of the State of Vermont consider with regret the scanty requirements of candidates for medical degrees in this state, both by the Medical Societies and by the Medical Institutions in the state; and not only in this, but in the adjoining states. They experience an earnest concern on account of the general laxness that prevails; and that less is required at both places than formerly, although the facilities of acquirement are increased, and that less is now insisted on at some institutions for candidates to obtain the degree of M. D., than was formerly required to obtain the degree of M. B. We consider this abatement of requirements as having a strong tendency to deprecate the reputation of the profession, and to prove ultimately injurious to community;—Therefore, This Society do establish the following Ordinances to be observed by the several County Societies in this state, in granting their licenses to candidates who may apply for that purpose, instead of applying to the Medical Institutions for degrees of M. D. viz:

1st. Each and every student who shall apply to any County Medical Society in this state, after the 1st Jan. 1825, shall bring a certificate that his preparatory studies are sufficient to his being able to enter the Freshman Class in either of the Colleges in this state, or be examined to this effect; unless he may have a degree of Bachelor of Arts.

2d. If any candidate have a degree of Bachelor of Arts, he shall be required to study three full years with some licensed practitioner, with an absence of not more than six weeks in each year;—if he has been only fitted to enter college, he shall study four years as above, before he shall be admitted to examination for a license.

3d. Each candidate, applying to any of the County Societies in this state for a license, shall have attended at least one course of medical lectures at some public medical institution, during his pupillage.

4th. No license shall be granted to any person under the age of twenty-one years.

5th. Certificates of study shall be made oath to, by the practising physician, before some competent civil officer.

6th. Being fully impressed with a view of the necessity of reform, this Society, with due deference, do hereby recommend to the several Medical Institutions in the neighboring states, that candidates be furnished with degrees of Bachelor of Medicine after the above term of study, including two courses of lectures, &c. and that the degree of Doctor of Medicine be conferred on those who may merit it seven years after the degree of Bachelor of Medicine may have been granted.

7th. In case the above propositions shall be rejected by the constituted authorities, as above, together with the prerequisites of candidates, then this Society reserve to themselves the privilege of altering or rescinding as they may think proper, but otherwise to remain, and be scrupulously observed.

8th. The Society hereby direct their secretaries to correspond with the constituted authorities of the several Medical Institutions in the States of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island and Maine, and respectfully suggest the propriety of their adopting, simultaneously, regulations similar to the above, for the benefit of community,
iodine. The temperature of the patient was 102 degrees, and there was no fever. The patient was given a quinine, and the treatment was continued for ten days, with good results.

The patient was discharged from the hospital on the 15th of October, and has been doing well since.

The case is of interest as an example of the successful treatment of a complication of typhoid fever with a complication of septicemia.
OBSErvATIONS.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES

ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

On the Origin of Typhus Fever, in which its Contagious or Non-contagious nature is considered.

(Concluded from page 63.)

Again I have known a great many instances in which patients laboring under typhus were removed into a fresh atmosphere, and yet in no case did the disorder propagate itself to any other individual. Now how does this happen, if typhus be contagious? Had the cases been those of small pox, measles, or scarlet fever, they would have been communicated to many persons, provided those persons had not been before the subjects of such affections. Why does this difference exist between typhus fever, small pox, measles, and scarlet fever? Does it not show that they are, generally speaking at least, essentially different as to the capability of their being communicated? Besides, I have known wives kiss their husbands again and again, when the tongue and teeth of the latter were crusted with the sordes of typhus fever,—I have known fathers and mothers do the same thing to their children similarly situated,—I have known mothers suckle their children while they were subjects of typhus,—I have known persons in health sleep in the same bed with those sick of typhus,—and yet, in none of these cases, has the disorder been communicated. Now I ask you, once more, how such things could, by possibility, happen if typhus were that contagious affection which schools and colleges, and which those secondary and shallow intellects, who borrow their notions wholly from such authorities, would have us implicitly to believe? Perhaps we may be enabled to throw some light upon this obscure subject, upon the differences between infection and contagion, by referring to some facts observable, in certain cases of erysipelas, and of fever following puncture in the dissection of bodies undergoing the putrefactive process. I have repeatedly observed that if the wards of a hospital be crowded with bad cases, when the air is so stagnant as to prevent the removal of the foul air within from the fresh air without; I have repeatedly observed, I say, that erysipelas arises under such a combination of circumstances, and alone under such a combination, in the place already specified. In one person the remote occasion shall appear to be the puncture of a leech; in another, cold applied to the cheek; in a third, it shall arise from food offending the stomach, and in a fourth, it shall arise spontaneously, without there being such an apparently concurring cause. In the progress of such cases, a continued fever arises, which so exactly resembles the continued typhus from malaria, that putting out of consideration the external erysipelas, it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to distinguish it from continued typhus of marsh miasm. Though I have carefully watched the rise and progress of this form of erysipelas, which you know I call the erythematous, by way of distinction, yet I have never known one instance of it in which it appeared to propagate itself from person to person. It occurs within a local taint or contamination of air, and persons removed from that air do not communicate the affection. But, in its reflection, it appeared to me highly probable, that this local taint or contamination of air was the product of the odor of the stools, urine, breath, and perspiration. Assuming this to be the case, when I was physician to the Fever Hospital, I induced the committee to establish convalescent wards; and as they enabled me, while I was there, to keep the receiving wards much less crowded, this expedient, together with free ventilation, nearly proved a preventive of the erysipelas, for I only had two slight cases afterwards during the whole of the time which I remained in that office. With respect to the few cases of erysipelas in which, after contusion or wounds, puncture in dissecting, and also on so exactly the character of continued typhus from malaria, that losing sight of the original puncture, the inflamed abscesses up the arm, and the tender glands in the axilla, in twelve cases which I have witnessed, I could not have distinctly drawn the line of demarcation. Yet in none of those examples has the disorder propagated itself, though I have noticed their progress very narrowly, and though most of them occurred among my pupils in confined situations. Moreover, Gaspard has shown, by experiment, that putrid animal or vegetable matter, introduced into the blood, occasions a fever of the typhoid or typhus character.

It would appear, then, that a fever having a peculiar intermitent, remittent, and continued character, arises from malaria, and malaria alone, as far as my observation goes; but it would also appear, that a fever of a continued form, with a typhoid or typhus character, arises, 2dly, from a local taint or contamination of air from the odor of the stools, urine, breath, and perspiration; and, 3dly, from the introduction of putrid matter, as in the case of puncture from dissecting, or of the experiments made by Gaspard. But I do not mean to assert that such things happen that persons laboring under this form of fever so contaminate the air by a like miasm, or putrid product, as to affect those who approached them in a like manner. Or does it ever happen, that the clothes of persons who approach such patients are so imbued with such a miasm, or putrid product, as to give it off again, and occasion then a similar fever in individuals previously healthy? These are questions which can only be answered by an observation at once the most minute and extensive; and though I have been so long and so laboriously attending to the subject, I must pause, must leave my mind open to the reception of future facts, and decide accordingly. In the mean time I would say, that the thing is possible, but that I have not yet met with any well authenticated and considered facts which would justify me in drawing such a conclusion. Common candor, however, requires me to state, that I have met with some cases, a few, indeed, out of a vast many, which at first sight gave a strong coloring to the doctrine of contagion, but which, duly considered, are explicable on that of malaria. Thus, for instance, the sister of a young lady who died of typhus, requested to see the body the day after death, and, while standing over it, she became faint and sick, and had an attack of typhus. But the lady, whom I saw in a dying state, and who soon afterwards expired, lived in a house where I had traced the existence of malaria for some years; her sister, the second affected, had also lived in that house, and is it not, therefore, probable, that the sight of the body, by debilitating her frame, was only the predisposing cause, and that this second individual, like the first, had been exposed to malaria, the predisposing cause?

One of the porters of the Fever Hospital was attacked by typhus, and an excellent physician told me, that this surely was a convincing proof of the contagious nature of the disorder. But I replied, that this porter had been almost daily in districts where malaria prevailed, and it turned out, in investigating the case, that it had the character of a quotidain ague a week before it put on the continued form, thus showing, that it had arisen from malaria. Nurses about the hospital are occasionally attacked, and especially those who wash the clothes of the sick.

In allusion to the influence of smells, I may mention, that I have seen individuals who, being debilitated by disagreeable odors of a common nature, were seized, some by intermittent, some by remittent, and others by continued typhus; and in such cases we can only suppose, that the disagreeable odor of a common kind had been the predisposing cause, since the symptoms which arose were those of a peculiar character, such, in a word, as arises from malaria or marsh miasm. Confinement within the walls of a hospital is a powerful predisposing cause to some, and the hospital stands in one of the malaria districts, to the influence of which its inmates must be occasionally exposed in passing to and from the hospital. I might assume, with as much show of truth, that this theatre is a focus of contagion, and might apparently prove it, by saying that many of my pupils, far more than the proportion of the inmates of the Fever Hospital, are attacked by typhus; but the fact is, that many of my pupils are broken up by hard study; and lodging in one of the malaria districts, the Borough, they become predisposed, and being exposed to its influence, they are attacked. But though their friends wait upon them affectionately, as nurses, I have never known any of them receive the disorder from the sick. Upon the whole, then, though I would not take upon myself to deny, in the present stage of the inquiry, the possibility of typhus being contagious, yet I have become more and more sceptical on the subject, the more minutely I have inquired into facts. Many men, it is true, make confident declarations, and say that typhus has spread from such and such a family as from a focus; but wherever I have had an opportunity of investigating the matter on the spot referred to, it has happened, either that the evidences of malaria were distinct, or
that the drains were in such an imperfect state as to produce a local taint or contamination of air.

What formerly deceived me, and what still deceives many persons is, that this, one, two, or more individuals may be attacked in the same house. But if one case arise from malaria, why not another and another? And where this is the case, generally speaking, we have grounds for inferring that malaria was the primary source, on minute examination of the testimony, it will be found, that some cases in the commencement assumed an intermittent or a remittent character.

The doctrine of contagion has been productive of one great practical evil in London and elsewhere. It has withdrawn the attention of the profession of the public, and even of the government, from the consideration of its primary source, namely, malaria, and has led them to trust to fever hospitals as means of prevention. But if my observations be correct, fever hospitals are of little or no utility in a preventive point of view, especially those which receive patients in the last stage. Indeed typhus obeys moral and physical laws to which the governors of such establishments do not at all advert, and how can we expect them to be useful in a preventive point of view? So certain am I in the truth of the doctrine of malaria, and a local taint or contamination of air, that I believe, with the aid of the Legislature, I could go far to annihilate typhus fever, and most of the chronic meningitis, where many substantial improvements might be made in reference to this subject.

The doctrine of contagion is so inferential, so pernicious in its unqualified application, that it ought to be sifted to the very bottom. By alarming the healthy, it powerfully predisposes them to the operation of malaria and other subtle agencies; it renders the attendants often so selfish, that they sacrifice the sick by sending them to hospitals at so late a stage that the fatigue of the removal destroys all reasonable hope of recovery; it falsifies the facts and debilitates the sick themselves, and in that way often destroys them through its mental irritation and depression. It has endangered the welfare of whole cities, as of Alicante, where military lines were drawn round, so that the inhabitants could not leave their homes, but were compelled to breathe the local taint or contamination of the atmosphere there. Nay, it may endanger the very liberty of a country, to say nothing of commerce, as recently happened in Spain, where the doctrine of contagion was made an infamous pretense of gathering together that French army which advanced, more than as far as any contagion, and crushed the rising liberties of Spain, and restored all the horrors of an unrestricted despotism.

You would do well to ponder upon all these things. You would do well to pause before you admit the doctrine of contagion, since it involves such momentous consequences, private as well as public. Above all, let me advise you, as you value your own approbation, the health and lives of the public, and the advancement of your profession,—above all, I repeat, let me advise you to examine into the question through facts, uninfluenced by any prejudice towards others, or by any partiality to myself personally.

In my next, I shall consider the symptoms, morbid anatomy, and treatment of typhus, and shall, at the same time, endeavour to show the identity of that affection and what are commonly called yellow fever and the plague.

(Loud applause followed this long and excellent lecture.)

INJURIES OF THE SCALP.

Contusion.—A blow of a blunt weapon, in general, detaches the scalp from the pericranium. The separation takes place to a greater or less extent around the seat of the injury. Into the receptacle thus formed, and into the broken cellular substance which surrounds the cavity the blood is poured from the ruptured vessels. There is danger of mistaking such an ecchymosis for a depressed fracture, because the border of it, raised and hardened by the blood which is impacted amongst the cellular substance, resemb­les the elevated circumference of a depressed fracture; while the central part, soft and yielding, allows the finger to sink apparently below the level of the scalp. If you open such tumours in an early stage, you will induce a high degree of inflammation and fever, which will be followed by suppuration of a very bad character. Many means of cold ointments applied to the tumour by the antiphlogistic regimen and quiet, the extravasated blood will generally absorb in the course of ten or twenty days. If at the end of ten or twelve days the tumour should continue un­diminished, especially if the integuments should begin to inflame and point, you may then make an incision sufficient to give exit to the blood; after which keep the parts in apposition by compression and bandage, and they will quickly unite.

FAINTING FITS.

In warm weather and in crowded assemblies fainting fits are not unfrequent. When a case of this kind occurs, let the person be removed as soon as possible to the open air, and laid in a horizontal position with nothing tight remaining about him. Should the powers of life not have been previously exhausted by disease, fatigue, or want of food, a recovery generally takes place after a short interval, and often without anything being done; but should this not be the case, the feet and legs may be immersed in warm water, and the nostrils stimulated by applying spirits of hartshorn, a few drops of which may be afterwards drunk in a glass of water. If these fail, inflation of the lungs and the means resorted to in cases of drowning should be had recourse to.

For the Medical Intelligence.

MORTALITY AMONG THE FISHES.

The banks of the Conestoga, in Pennsylvania, are at present lined with dead fish. In the eastern states several similar occurrences have been noticed. Various speculations have been entered into as to the cause of this mortality among the fishy tribe—the late extraordinary heat, im­purity of the water, &c. The most rational conjecture appears to be, that fish, as well as flesh, is not immortal; that by a law of nature, all flesh, fish, and fowl, are subject to disease and death. When we can account for the causes of death among men—a subject of speculation most im­mediately under our observation—we may attempt to analyze the nature of fishes, and the element in which they live, to discover the cause which subjects them to death; to ascertain whether a combination of heat and moisture, acting on vegetable matter, produces epidemics, or whether some itinerant sea-serpent from the coral reefs of the tropics, brings contagion in his scaly hide, and spreads disease and death among them. Ask yourselves why so many men die occasionally of the small-pox? Because they have not been vaccinated, you will reply; but what is the cause of the small-pox? What is the cause of measles, of hooping-cough, of cholera infantum, cholera morbus—of all the other aches and ills to which human nature is subject, and which bring death into the world, and fill our cemeteries with inhabitants? Answer these questions, and then seek for the cause of mortality among the fishes.

Of all the follies into which the human mind has been led by fancy, there is none equal to that of attempting to discover the cause, for the purpose of counteracting the effect, of disease and death. Philosophy may humble the bows of the earth, analyze the air; sublimate the mineral and distil the vegetable world, to discover the causes and counteract the effects of death, and yet man “shall surely die.” This is proved by observation and history. The present age boasts of more light and knowledge, especially in medicine, than any former one; and yet man dies as often, and disease prevails as universally, as at any time since the death of Abel. The conclusion is obvious: all things in nature are subject to nature’s laws, and can, therefore, not antagonize the laws of nature, man, fish, and fowl, must be subject to disease and death. We may palliate—we may cure—individual cases; we may soften the pillow of the aching head, and moisten the feverish lip; we may succeed, by petition, in getting the tyrant to respite the sentence passed on some palty victim; but the tyrant we cannot depose, nor can we wrest his sceptre from him. He is commissioned by nature, his instructions are absolute and imperative, and we must submit. Therefore if we would relieve the world from disease and death, we must consult nature, and annul her laws—a Quixotic attempt, but one perfectly in character with the attempts of philosophers to ascertain the cause, for the purpose of obviating the effects, of disease among men, and the mortality among the fishes.

PYTHAGORAS.

SURGEON’S INSTRUMENTS.

Good instruments are of the first consideration with the surgeon; however well he may understand manual operations, and the anatomy of the human system, all his experience and all his ingenuity may suffer, at a critical moment, too, from poor instruments, and the skill which may have been exercised for the relief of many unfortunate beings, called in question when the utmost confidence is necessary.—These remarks are partly in consequence of some late misfortunes we have witnessed, where much confusion resulted, and the loss also of considerable reputation, simply from the circumstance of the bad temper of an unpolished knife.

Now a word for our own countrymen in relation to the point in question. There is no one mechanic who pays so much for a set of tools (as many perhaps as will weigh several hundred weight), as the surgeon does for a few small ivory-handled knives, which can be carried in a spectacle case. Some alteration should be made; the manufacturers of surgical instruments have imposed upon the profession long enough, and we now
To Physicians.

Although we have encountered many difficulties in establishing this journal, we have finally succeeded beyond our expectations, and our subscription list, which we believe is not exceeded by that of any medical publication on this side the Atlantic, encourages us to make still greater exertions, and we are now making arrangements for collecting the immediate reports of all the principal surgical operations which may be performed in the cities and country—and in this way hope to give our patrons the earliest local medical intelligence of the day. Since reporting the interesting operation performed in Deerfield, we find an increased inclination on the part of the faculty to become subscribers. We beg leave to assure them we shall use unvarying exertions to anticipate the more expensive medical publications, in all such articles as are immediately important. We are perfectly independent, and neither care for the frowns of those who dislike us, nor the envy of those who make themselves miserable in railing against our manner of writing medical reports. Entirely interested in the management of our business, to the benefit of our numerous friends, and the profit of ourselves, we can only again assure them of our determination to merit their approbation.

Reports.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

Operations on the Eye.

The following interesting cases of operations on the eye, are reported by Dr. A. Brownbridge, a distinguished surgeon in Jefferson co. N. Y.

J. Sevors, while chopping wood, caused a chip to strike the left eye, with great force. It produced immediate pain and inflammation of the whole eye. He applied a solution of salt, sat., and kept the eye bound up for several days without surgical advice. On the ninth day from the occurrence of this accident, I was consulted, and learned that the extreme pain had subsided a short time before, but he was blind with the injured eye; that the eye was again becoming painful, and that it extended to the back part of the head and neck. On examining the eye, I found the bowd had ruptured the capsule of the lens, and that it was pressed forward and resting partly on the pupil in an opaque state. The inflammation had subsided upon the conjunctiva, and the globe of the eye was considerably enlarged, attended with some pointing of the cornea. The removal of the pain was evidently from disintegration of inflammation, and it occasioned but little prospect of entire absorption of the lens, and much danger from returning inflammation; to give relief, I passed a coreda knife in the same manner it is used for extracting the cataract, let out the aqueous fluid, passed a small hook through the incision, fastened it into the lens, and brought it through the pupil with small portions of its capsule partially adhering to the iris, quite out of the eye; closed the eye, dressed it, and treated the patient as usual after extracting the cataract. But little pain followed, and recovery took place in 17 days, with as good sight as could be with the loss of the lens.

Mrs. B., aged 42, had been troubled with pain in both eyes and symptoms of cataract, for several years; for one year past there had been total blindness of the right eye, and partial blindness of the left: the pupil of the right eye was enlarged and filled with a whitish substance appearing like a portion of cartilage; there was but little dissimilarity to a case of milky cataract. I commenced the operation of extracting the usual manner; after opening the cornea and passing the point of aouching needle and rupturing the capsule of the lens to bring it forward, I found the lens hard, and not to be punctured with the needle. Moderate pressure upon the eye brought it forward partly through the pupil, and it was removed with the small scoop and forceps. The lens was ossified, with its capsular thickened, and adhered to some portions of the inner side of the iris, and to the capsule of the vitreous humor; a portion of this fluid flowed out, of a milky appearance. Much pain and inflammation followed the operation for twenty days; this finally subsided, but no sight was restored. Since this the other eye has improved in sight.

B. M., aged 17, had been troubled from infancy in seeing objects at a distance, or, as it is usually called, "near-sightedness." She received, a few months since, an injury of the right eye, by the passing in of a small quantity of hot lard. A violent ophthalmia followed, and continued five weeks; it was treated by a physician in the usual manner. Inflammation subsided; some pain continued in the eye, with an enlarged state of it, and dilated pupil.

She consulted me about three months from the accident. The globe of the eye was much enlarged, with the cornea pushed forward, and the pupil so much dilated that the iris could scarcely be seen. The sclerotica was of a dark blue color, and the fluids of the eye were perfectly transparent; looking into the eye seemed like inspecting the whole posterior cavity. Vision was small, nothing but large objects could be seen at all. The case appeared to be a drop of the eye, and as the usual remedies had been used for some time without effect, and the patient was now suffering much pain from distension, I proceeded to give immediate relief. I passed a coreda knife in the same manner as for extracting the cataract; this let out a large quantity of the aqueous fluid, with the lens partly dissolved. Moderate pressure was made on the eye till a quantity of the vitreous humor passed through, and the eye brought to a flattened state. It was then closed and dressed as usual, with compresses wet in a solution of carbonate of mercury and water. A powder composed of 1 grain of calomel, 1 of sulph. ant. and 4 of gm. guaiac, was given twice a day. This treatment continued ten days, when a recovery of the eye took place, with tolerable sight.

Surgical Operation.

On the first of this month we witnessed, in common with several other spectators, at Mr. Abraham Levan's Tavern, in this borough, an operation for blindness, with a result so brilliant, and in a case so interesting, that we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of laying it before our readers. The subject was a boy, aged about 7 years, from a remote part of this country, and a son of a respectable farmer. From the child's mother, who was present, we learned that at the age of six or seven months, when children usually begin to direct their hands to different objects, it was first observed that the boy was blind. Believing his case incurable, his parents were resigned to his fate. A few weeks ago, however, a medical gentleman, who had lately settled in the neighborhood, pronounced the case Congenital Cataract, and advised the parents of the child to place him under the care of Dr. Isaac Hsieter, of Reading, who, he told them, had repeatedly performed this operation in similar cases, and which he had done, and were not disappointed. When we saw the patient, the Doctor had already succeeded in imparting vision to one of the eyes, on which he operated five days before. The effect of the operation we witnessed, like that of the other eye, as related by the mother, was like enchantment. To see a fellow being excluded from the world, as it were, by a state of total blindness, suddenly brought to light, to the enjoyment of vision, by a skilful direction of the human hand, was a spectacle truly delightful. It was interesting to observe, when the bandage was removed, on the third day after the operation, the readiness with which the little fellow distinguished objects and colors and his ignorance, at the same time, of their names, which he had, of course, yet to learn. The only object which

Licentiate of Medicine.

There are several large towns in Massachusetts, in which the inhabitants profess to honor the good and wholesome laws of this commonwealth, and yet they tolerate practitioners who are not acknowledged as such by the State Medical Society. No physician or surgeon can recover any fee whatever for professional services, unless he has been regularly inducted into business in the way specified in the statutes of this Society. It might be well for physicians to examine a little more closely into the rights and privileges of their medical neighbours, throughout the different medical districts, as they are liable to be called to account for their neglect, as well as for countenancing the practices of any one who does not conform to the state regulations. Now we have a medical aristocracy as much as those who crowd out at the loop-holes of policy; but, as we have conformed to these requirements, we believe it is right that others should do the same.

A list of the licentiate of the Massachusetts Medical Society, with their places of residence, as well as a list of those practitioners who are neither fellows nor licentiate, with names of the towns in which they reside, is now preparing for a future number of this journal.

Boston Medical Intelligencer.
he recognized, of many that were presented to him, was a pair of scissors, whose name he recollected it should seem, by reason of their peculiar form, having been accustomed often to amuse himself with this instrument while in a state of blindness.—Reading Chronicle.

**VARIETIES.**

"Oh that mine adversary had written a book!"

**Surgical Reports.**—We contemplate the publication of an octavo pamphlet, as soon as our leisure will possibly admit of it, containing the report of the operation performed in Deerfield, Mass., which was published in this journal. We shall strictly copy the article from the Intelligencer, as we then wrote it, believing it perfectly correct, and accompany it with a beautiful engraving of a sketch of the patient before and after the excision of nearly half of his upper jaw, in consequence of an osteo-sarcoma of a formidable size. There will also be two engravings of the tumor, both as a whole, and as it appeared when saved by Mr. Evans, and also celebrated European surgeons with observations on tying the carotid and other important arteries.

It is exceedingly gratifying to learn from a correspondence that exists between us and the family of Mr. Hubbard, that the external wound has healed, and that a new jaw bone (ossae granulations) was successfully filled up the space where the diseased bone was extracted. We mention this circumstance for the satisfaction of those of our subscribers whose names have been received within the last six weeks, and who, from not having our June numbers, have not been acquainted with the results and circumstances of this extraordinary and interesting case.

**Surgical Instruments.**—We give the following remark, not by request, but in justice to geniuses, and for the benefit of our correspondents—The proprietors of the Surgical Instrument Room, 115, Hanover Street, has just opened a shop for making and repairing Surgical Instruments. We patronized him with a few old rusty lancets, scalpels, &c. which were returned to us in a condition which we never expected or wished for. The next day they were returned at small expense, with all the perfections of shape, polish, cross-polish, edges and points, and not in the least inferior to their first appearance from the hands of three veteran surgeons—Mr. Charles Morton, Dr. Charles Robinson; James M'Neil, 16 mo.; Thomas Smith, jr.

**Children of Hospital Reports.**—Child of Edward Caravan; Sarah E. Kuhn, 431.

**Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston.**

Ending September 3d; from the Health-Office Returns.

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**Medical Lectures.**—The annual course of medical lectures commence in the New-Hampshire Medical Institution on Thursday next, and in the Berkshire Institution, on Wednesday, the 14th of September.

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**Medical Department of Transylvania University.**—The Lectures in this Institution will commence, as usual, on the first Monday of November, and terminate the last day of February. Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. Dutch; Protestant and Clinical Practice, by Dr. Caldwell. Theory and Practice of Medicine, by Dr. Drake. Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, by Dr. Richardson. Chemistry, by Dr. Ely. Instructed, by Dr. Tuttle, at fifteen guineas. Trustees should not be made before the opening of the School. Materia Medica and Pharmacy will be divided into the present week, so that the course of instruction will be as full as at any preceding period.

The Anatomical Museum comprehends a great variety of elegant and instructive wax preparations, fabricated by the first artists of Europe.

**Medical Degrees.**—At Harvard University, on Wednesday last, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon—Stephan Ball, Joseph Clark, John Parker Flint, A. M. Henry Little, John Mason, A. M. Samuel B. Fiske, A. M. Henry Torrey, A. M. Abraham Robinson, A. M. David H. Storer, A. M. William Workman, Jacob Wyeth, A. M. The honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon—Dr. Michael Faraday, A. M., Dr. Nathaniel Petter, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Baltimore; Dr. William Hooker, Dr. Benjamin Billings, Dr. Walter Hunnewell, A. M. and Dr. Ebenezer Starr, A. M.

**Profits of Lecturers.**—It is stated in a Medical periodical work, that a Lecturer on Anatomy, who has a class of 250 pupils, receives 2,500 guineas annually for delivering a lecture, which occupies one hour daily, the expense of which, to him, for dead bodies, &c., does not exceed 300. For the dissecting room he also receives six guineas for the season from each pupil, about 150, making 800 guineas. He receives from his receipts from pupils for attending the hospitals is about 1,500, making, in the whole, not quite 6,000 per annum. In Paris, a lecturer thinks himself well paid with 500.

**Ohio Medical College.**—Dr. Smith has not taken his connection with that institution, as was stated, some few weeks since. He retains the chair of materia medica and pharmacology, as well as his place on the board of trustees, and receives his fee for the service, from his report, and transmitted by his correspondent, before he had learned the particulars.

**Berkshire Medical Institute.**

The Berkshire Medical Institute, located in Pittsfield, Berkshire co. Mass. in the centre of a dense and enlightened population, presents many advantages to the medical student. It is a model seminary, and has been greatly beyond example, and constant efforts are making to render it a desirable place to attain a thorough and accomplished medical education. Ample provision has been made in the shape of a well-assorted library, and a great collection of minerals, a valuable herbarium, and an anatomical museum, embracing a great variety of models and preparations. It also contains many specimens of Natural History, and some of the best in the United States. The annual lecture term commences on the second Wednesday in September, and continues fifteen weeks. Medical degrees are conferred at the close of the lectures and a large number of those who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and those who have attended two full courses of lectures at any regularly incorporated medical institution in which the lectures are given by an equal number of lecturers or professors, are admitted gratuitously. The requisites for an examination for a degree are, a good general and preparatory education, and the student must have been present at the institute for terms degrees commence on Thursday preceding the close of the lecture term. Dissertations must be lodged with the Dean of the Faculty, at least four weeks previous to commencement.


Fees for the whole course, 400 dollars. Graduating Fees, 200 dollars. Matriculating Ticket, 2 dollars. Tickets of admission for those who wish to attend the Lectures on Botany, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, only 60 dollars. Board, including washing, lodgings, and rooming, 75 per week for a term of 3 months, terms of twentidioles each, will be disposed of in the following manner, viz.—One to the graduate from the last class who present the best dissertation on a given subject, this will be the fiftiest of the next lecture term—the other to the candidate from the next succeeding class, who shall present the best dissertation on any subject.
OBSERVATIONS.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON.

DR. ROGET'S TWELFTH AND LAST LECTURE.

Dr. Roget, in his Twelfth Lecture, which terminated the course, concluded the subject of the Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Vision, and gave a general review of the Laws of Perception, and an account of the limits of the senses, and of the fallacies to which they are liable.

The eyes of Reptiles, he observed, present but few peculiarities. In most serpents the instruments form, instead of eye-lids, a firm and transparent conjunctiva, or window, behind which the eye-ball has a free motion. This part is shed, together with the cuticle, when the animal is moulting; but previous to these epochs, while the external cornea is preparing to detach itself, it becomes opaque, in consequence of the introduction of air, and the serpent is deprived of the use of its eyes, until the complete separation of the skin has been effected. The performed eyelids of the Lizard tribe, the remarkable construction of the Canine, and the recent discovery of a marsupium in some species of Saurian Reptiles, were severely noticed.

The structure of the Organs of Vision in Aquatic Animals was next considered. The density of water being so much greater than that of air, a superior refractive power is required, in order to bring rays to a focus on the retina when they arrive at the eye, through the former than through the latter medium. In all aquatic animals, accordingly, the crystalline lens is denser and more convex than in terrestrial animals. The gradations were traced by which this transition of structure takes place in different tribes of mammals, birds, and amphibious, according as they have more frequent occasion to plunge under water, and exercise the function of Vision in the element. In true fishes the construction of the eye is wholly adapted to the water: the crystalline lens is very nearly, if not entirely spherical, and of great density; and the cornea, whose function is almost superseded by the surrounding medium, is nearly flat.

The peculiarities which exist only in the eyes of fish, such as the choroid gland, and tunica vascularis, and falciform process, were severally described. The remarkable substance intoced between the sclerotics and choroides in the sturgeon, discovered by Mr. Langstaff, was pointed out. Remarks were made on the differences which take place in the eyes of those tribes of fish which migrate to considerable distances, compared with those that are stationary: and an explanation was given of the singular appearance of a double pair of eyes in the Cobitis Anabaptis, arising from the division of the cornea and pupil by a transverse band. The speculations of Dumeril and Lacépède, as to the exercise of the sense of Vision in fishes at great depths in the ocean, were likewise investigated.

The Organs of Vision in the Mollusca were briefly noticed: after which Dr. Roget proceeded to consider those of Articulated Animals, describing the simple eyes of the apterous orders and the stemmata, and composite eyes of Insects, properly so called. Experiments were related tending to elucidate the functions of these two kinds of eyes.

Having thus concluded the subject of the Physiology of the individual senses, Dr. Roget took a general survey of the circumstances which are common to them all, and which constitute the Laws of Perception. In investigating the conditions which are necessary to the existence of perception, and produce their principal modifications, we find the inquiry branching out into two objects: first, the nature of the physical conditions in the external agency producing sensation; and secondly, that of the physiological conditions of organization and of function in the animal that feels. The latter relate either to the sensorium itself, or to the external organ which first receives the impression, or to the nerve by which a communication is established between these two. All these circumstances have been investigated, and showing their influence in the case of the different senses, the Lecturer proceeded to examine more particularly the variations which are met with in the local sensitivity of the organ, and which lead to modifications of perception, independently of any change in the external cause. In this point of view, it may be stated as a general law of sensation, that all impressions have a direct tendency to exhaust the sensibility of the organ on which those impressions have been made; and also indirectly to exhaust the sensibility of the system in general. The operation of this law was traced in the case of every one of the senses; and more particularly in that of hearing and of smell. The peculiar construction of the Organ of Vision allows us to distinguish the effect of impressions on particular parts of the retina, independently of their general effect upon the whole organ. These partial variations of sensibility to light gave rise to the phenomena of ocular spectra, which were first particularly noticed by the Linné, and fully investigated by Dr. R. Darwin. The principal facts relating to this subject were fully stated, and the mode of making the experiments illustrating them was explained. The appearances of ocular spectra at the same time that they illustrate the curious physiological Laws of Sensibility, furnish also very beautiful exemplifications of the doctrine of the composition of solar light. The tendency to the formation of ocular spectra, combined with the natural steadiness of the eye, is the cause of the colored borders which frequently appear to surround objects that are viewed attentively. Several anecdotes were related of mistakes made by persons arising from this cause. The importance of a correct knowledge of these principles, in their applications to the art of painting, was likewise pointed out.

The second general law of sensation, which relates to the organ receiving the impression from the external agent, is, that this impression continues for a certain time, although the external cause has ceased to act. This is a general fact, applicable to all the senses; and its exemplification, in the case of each individual sense, was given at some length. The influence of this principle was also traced in the modifications it produces on the effects of the preceding laws, which relates to the exhaustion and accumulation of sensibility, and more especially in the instance of ocular spectra. The result of experiments, made by M. D'Arcy and others, with a view to ascertain the duration during which a certain light remain on the retina, were stated; and reasons assigned for rejecting the supposition which has been advanced, that their duration was owing to a phosphorescent property belonging to the retina.

A curious appearance of visual deception occurs in the appearance of the spokes of a carriage-wheel, rolling on the ground, when it is viewed through the intervals of vertical bars, such as those of a palisade or of an upright Venetian window-blind. Instead of appearing straight, as they actually are, and as they would have appeared if no bars intervened, they all of them, excepting the upper and lower spokes, which have arrived at the vertical position, appear to be considerably curved. The curvature is in the same direction on both sides of the upright spokes, so that they all seem to turn upwards; and the same appearance presents itself whether the wheel be moving to the right or to the left of the spectator. Dr. Roget has traced this deception to the law of the permanence of impressions on the retina; the form of the curve being that resulting from the combined intersections of a revolving radius, with a vertical line moving parallel to itself. Having lately presented a paper on this subject to the Royal Society, which was read at one of the meetings this session; and the paper being now printed and about to appear in the ensuing part of the Philosophical Transactions, Dr. Roget contented himself with this brief notice of the fact, and with showing the appearance in question by means of an apparatus contrived for its exhibition.

The third of sensations, that vivid impressions, made upon the organs of sense, have, after the lapse of a certain time, during which they totally disappear, a tendency to spontaneous recurrence, without the renewed application of the external cause. This takes place more or less with regard to all the senses; and in the eye gives rise to spectra of a different kind from either the direct or reverse spectra already described, although partaking of all their varieties.

A vast field of interesting inquiry was next pointed out, in the influence which the mind exerts over the operations of the faculty of perception, and influence which operates powerfully in modifying the nature of the perceptions, and in combining them in various ways. It is this power of combination, Dr. Roget observed, which constitutes our own individuality, and without which the respective classes of perception derived from each sense would have composed so many distinct beings. The astonishing effects of the exercise of attention in regulating, in weakening, and in exalting the faculties of perception, were illustrated by various examples.
Although the perceptions of the senses are the foundations of all our knowledge, yet these very senses occasionally deceive us; and Dr. Roger proceeded to inquire into the sources of their fallacy. They may in general be traced to the operation of the very same laws which, in ordinary circumstances, direct our judgments correctly, and to unusual or irregular combinations of these laws. He introduced the subject by an inquiry into the limits of the senses, both with respect to the range of intensity and into the degree of some particular quality in the external cause of perception. Instances were pointed out of secondary species of perceptions arising from the very imperfections of our senses. But it is impossible, in the narrow limits of this abstract, to specify the examples which were adduced in illustration of the general remarks on these subjects, and without which their scope would not be understood, nor their force perceived. The lecture was concluded by some observations on the adaptation of the powers of perception, both in our own case and that of the lower animals, not only to the properties and constitution of the material world, but also to our present wants and necessities.

Thus finished a course of lectures of great interest, and of which our epitome, short as it has been, may enable the public generally to form an idea, honorable to the state of British Science, and to the abilities of the Lecturer.

**TYPHUS SYNCOPEAL, SINKING TYPHUS, OR THE SPOTTED FEVER OF NEW-ENGLAND, AS IT APPEARED IN THE EPIDEMIC OF 1823,**

In Middletown, Connecticut.

By T. MURR, M. D.

Between the last of March, and the last of December 1823, two of the physicians* had the care of more than a hundred and seventy cases of Fever, in Middletown, Connecticut, which went through their course, and required close and vigilant attendance. They also had the charge of more than a hundred and eighty other cases of the same sort, which, either from original mildness, or prompt treatment, proved to be comparatively slight. In the latter class of patients however, were so much indisposed, as to be unable to attend to their ordinary business, for a period of one or two weeks; though unlike the former, they were not entirely confined to their beds for any considerable time. Out of these cases, being in the whole about three hundred and sixty, twelve died; viz. six adults, and six children. One half of the mortality happened in November. In the succeeding month, the Epidemic terminated. Persons of all ages, from one year old to seventy, and of both sexes, were the objects of the disease. It is perhaps need less to remark, that the following statement applies more particularly to the severer cases unless the more moderate are distinctly mentioned.

There were two varieties of attack, the sudden and the insidious. The most sudden attacks were the soonest relieved, provided the patients had prompt and appropriate treatment; and under such circumstances, the disease rarely exceeded five or seven days. [Note 1.] In some

* Dr. Edward S. Cone and the author. The patients were principally Dr. Cone’s but were mostly visited by the author in consultation.

† The notes will be inserted at the conclusion of the article.

of the severest cases the disease arrived at its height on the third day, and under careful management the patient appeared subsequently to be free from danger. Not one, this year, that was suddenly attacked, died; the recovery, in most instances, being the evident consequence of the promptness and decision of the treatment, and of the necessary which both patients and attendants felt, of following prescriptions scrupulously.

In the insidious cases, the subjects of the disease were affected with the symptoms about to be described, in a mild degree, for a greater or less length of time, and many seemed to labor under a kind of insidious malady, and existing danger, and were almost invariably inclined, for several days, to ascribe their indisposition to some other cause, than the prevailing epidemic; and if, at the instigation of friends, a physician was called, they could not be induced, without the greatest difficulty, to follow any regular plan of treatment, till violent symptoms occurred, sometimes as early as the 3d or 5th day, or more commonly, as late as the seventh. A few insidious cases continued two or three weeks, before there was apparent danger. In the last cases, there were no eyes, and the latter part of the disease was often most prominent in one side, or even in one leg or arm. In the latter stage however, there sometimes occurred periods of extreme susceptibility to the impression of rubefacients and epistaxes; but as a general rule, external applications, of ordinary strength, would produce very little effect, till something like reaction had been effected. Complete aques or rigors, this year, were very rare in any stage of the disease. Commonly, through the whole course of the disease, the surface, though not dry or husky, was seldom much inclined to spontaneous moisture. [Note 2.] In a few instances however, there was a morbid, drenching perspiration. Sometimes, though rarely, the patient would complain of a general sensation of heat, though, to the feel of the attendants, he would be actually cold. Is not the heat, which has been often said to occur in some epidemics of this disease, either a transient flush, or the color mordax, the stinging sensation merely, and not the actual augmentation of thermometrical temperature? If increased heat, and increased frequency of the pulse, are a part of the definition of Fever, a great majority of the cases had no fever at all, but were merely an acute Neurosis. At this day however, it is well known that these symptoms are often absent in irregular Pyrexia. [Note 3.] (To be continued.)

For the Medical Intelligencer.

**DYSPEPSIA.**

In consequence of a sedentary life, I have for many years been afflicted with the fashionable complaint denominated dyspepsia. Its symptoms and effects were—flatulence, acid eructations, and head-ache; prostration of the spirits, rendering the nervous system extremely sensitive, and producing incipient and ephemeral hypochondriasis. I attributed it to the action of some acid humor on the nervous coat of the stomach, which disqualified the whole organ for its usual healthful action. How this humor was produced, was to me mysterious. I supposed it to be the consequence of sedentary employment, and brought on thus: Insufficiency of bodily exercise to give tone and vigor to the animal functions; the stomach, of consequence, became relaxed and generative, and unable to operate with sufficient energy on some substances taken into its food. This substance, lying undigested, underwent a species of fermentation, and the product of this fermentation acting on the relaxed and unnaturally tender coats of the stomach, produced a species of inflammatory action in the nervous coat, and hence the symptoms and effects above described. I have said nothing about the action of the mind, (which was kept in a state of vigorous exercise) nor its effects, believing that it op-
erates perniciously only on enfeebled organs. I may be right, but most probably am wrong; in my pathological deductions, but in the following *antidote*, I believe I am not far out of the way. From my reflection on my own case, I concluded that some one of the causes would be a proper prescription. I took a small pill of *Asafoetida*, and was successful beyond my most sanguine expectations. The flatulence subsided, and carried with it all of its unwelcome attendants—head-aches, costiveness, &c. Whenever I feel any symptoms of this troublesome disease now, I take a pill of *Asafoetida*, and in a moment all is well. It is a cheap medicine: get 61/2 cents worth of the gum, and when you have occasion to take it, break off about the size of a common pill and swallow it. I ought to have mentioned, that I am convinced this disease is not one of long duration; but, on the contrary, one of mere momentary existence; brought on by circumstances of the moment, and recurring as often as those circumstances recur. Therefore the remedy proposed does not offer security against future attacks, nor does that taken to-day relieve us from the attack of to-morrow. In saying that I believe it to be of momentary existence merely, I mean that, though it may be cured to-day, it may recur tomorrow; but it is not temporary a continuance of the disease of to-day; it is a fresh attack caused by the existence or recurrence of the same disposition of habit. The daily recurrence of dyspepsia, will, most certainly, produce a permanent disease; but this permanent disease is not dyspepsia any more than consumption is a common cold, any more than the lock-jaw is the simple puncture of the nail, or the fruit is the simple seed from which it grew.

**MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.**

The best way to obtain an intimate acquaintance with the practical part of medicine and surgery is, to give that attention to the appearance of diseases, which is necessary to be qualified readily, to note every point that distinguishes them from each other, and to form their characteristic symptoms and faithfully to record every circumstance relating to their history.—The physician or surgeon, who in this way carefully treasures up the fruits of his experience, will in a short time accumulate such a store of valuable information, as will give to his opinions the utmost weight upon every subject of practical importance. It is more, however, on account of facts that accurate notes of the history of cases are valuable, than the theoretical opinions which they may suggest or seem to strengthen. Yet much benefit may be done to the profession by the publication of opinions: notwithstanding we are much exposed to error in forming them, their publication cannot but be useful by exciting that attention to them, which will be likely soon to fix, or invalidate their principles. A free intercourse of opinions which have been carefully made up, also does something towards forming a substitute for a minute detail of circumstances, which impress certain conclusions upon the mind of the observer, but which cannot be communicated without so much prolixity and minuteness as would be likely to weary or disgust the reader.

With regard to cases, which is certainly the most valuable part of every book of practice, it cannot be expected that an examination of their records, will make so strong an impression upon the minds of readers, as the observance of them do upon that of the writers—but when the same circumstances as are related in them, occur in practice, then the same impressions which were made upon the mind by their perusal, will become more strong, and constitute a degree of knowledge which would otherwise require much personal experience to attain. The opinion is too common, that such circumstances only as are extraordinary, and of course can be expected but rarely to appear, should be considered worthy recording: when in reality, these are not of the least value to the majority of the profession, but only useful as records of the skill of some eminent practitioner, or perhaps rash operator, and food for the curiosity of the lovers of the marvellous: or what is worse, and really injurious, a meaning of *puffing* into notice some obscure pretended, whose testimonials of merit are as glaringly displayed in the columns of newspapers, as upon the bodies of his multifaceted patients.

We consider that page the richest, with the most valuable information, upon which is plainly and faithfully recorded the miscellaneous practical observations of men of experience, illustrated by the most common every day cases and dissections; explaining the principal causes of error in practice, and the most certain way of avoiding them. But after all, there can be no volume, no writing, or any kind of description, half the importance to a person whose object is the attainment of a knowledge of diseases, as that of the book of nature, which can only be studied by the bedside of the sick.

**REPORTS.**

**SINGULAR MONSTROUSITY.**

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
By Dr Thomas Close, of New-York.

Mrs..., at the full period of gestation, was delivered of a female child, which continued to breathe, and occasionally to utter feeble cries, for about three quarters of an hour. Its body and limbs were of the full size, and well proportioned; its head was very small; its mouth small, and lips prominent; the nose was entirely wanting; nor was there the slightest mark to designate its usual placenta. Its skin was highly wrinkled, in sound precisely like that occasioned by an obstruction of the usual passages. But the most singular circumstance attending this freak of nature, was in the structure of the organ of vision; as if attempting to realize the fable of the Cyclops. Exactly in the middle of the base of the forehead was placed a single eye-ball! It was of an oval form, and of at least twice the natural size. Its whole anterior surface was naked, being entirely destitute of eyelids, and displaying the uniform white color of the conjunctiva, or eyelids, it seems to be perfectly fixed in its socket. There were no eye-brows; the superciliary ridge of the frontal bone could not be traced; nor was there anything to designate the usual situation of the eyes. Towards the two extremes of this elliptical eye-ball, and nearly three fourths of an inch asunder, were seen two pupils, about the tenth of an inch in diameter. They appeared like two small holes perforating the opaque coats of the eye, and seemed destined of anything like the iris. The edges of the integuments surrounding this wonderful eye, terminated abruptly, displaying the lively red color of the inner surface of the eyelids, and giving an appearance as though the eyelids had been recently cut away. This opening in the integuments was elliptical, corresponding in size and shape with the eye-ball, except on the upper side, where it ran up the forehead in a tringular notch, exactly over the centre of the eye. At the termination of this notch arose a slender papilla of skin, of the thickness of a quill, and half as much long, which hung drooping over the eye.

The mother of this extraordinary offspring had previously borne four healthy children, all without the slightest deformity or blemish. This her last gestation was marked by an early expansion, and very unusual enlargement of the uterus, from a preternatural accumulation of the liquor amnii; the usual concomitant, I believe, of an imperfect fetus. This extra accumulation must have been coeval with the conception, as the expansion of the uterus was observed in the second, or early in the third month; and at the birth, the quantity discharged was probably not less than five or six quarts.

It may be worthy of remark, that nothing had happened of any period of this gestation, which the fondest believer in the most extravagant influence of the mother's imagination over her hapless offspring, could have supposed in the least capable of producing so singular a malformation. No terrific or unseemly object had met her view; and every desire had been gratified almost as soon as formed. She had not, however, always been thus fortunate. During a former gestation, among other objects of sore disquietude, she was suddenly exposed to a view of the bleeding stump of an amputated thumb; and that, too, after her feelings had been highly wrought up by the cries of the patient during the operation; a source of no small degree of terror at the moment, and of fearful solicitude for months afterwards; yet her child was without the slightest mark or blemish.

**CASE OF IRRITATIVE FEVER, FROM A SCRATCH RECEIVED DURING DISSECTION.**

By A. Thomson, M. D.

The subject of this case was Dr Thomson himself, and the disease originated in a slight scratch received in seeing up the body of a person who had died of pleuritic inflammation. The wound was inflicted in the morning, but no unusual sensation was perceived on the spot. During the night the pain was such as to prevent sleep, and was accompanied by profluse perspiration. In the morning a little pus had collected at the point wounded, the discharge of which afforded relief; but, during the forenoon, rigors and other attendant symptoms indicated the access of fever. The most marked symptom of the attack was an extreme prostration of the strength, and the Doctor compares his sensations to those which are said to result from the bite of the cobre di capella, or from an overdose of Prussic acid. The respiration was laborious, and accompanied by an acute pain under the xiphoid cartilage, extending to a short distance along the sternum; while the pulse was quick, vacillating and struggling, with occasional hard throbs.

Dr Thomson began by taking a mixture of camphor, ammonia, and wine of colchicum, to rouse the nervous energy, and at the same time clear out the bowels. But Dr Granville being called, ordered a bolus of three grains of camphor and four of Cayenne pepper and pellivium, which produced repletion, and some sleep
was obtained during the night. The next day there was heat, dry skin, some delirium, and pulse of 130, which were relieved by a purgative of calomel saltpers, and red meat.

The treatment afterwards consisted merely of an evaporating lotion to the finger, of pills of James' powder and extract of hembene, and purgatives. In a few days all unpleasant symptoms, of a general nature, subsided; but the finger became more painful, and it became necessary to cut it down to the bone, not in the skin part, but nearly an inch above it, in the phalanx of the finger. The part soon recovered.—London Medical Repository.

VARIETIES.

Benefits of Vaccination.—The following interesting facts are extracted from a pamphlet which has just been published. Smallpox is prevalent in the town of Cambridge, by Mr J. J. Cribb, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons—

1. More than 300 have probably died in Cambridge, in the last twenty-five years preceding the summer of 1824—i. e. in 7 of those who have had the disease.
2. Ten have died in the same period of smallpox from inoculation—i. e. 1 in 113. 3. Three have died in the same period of cow-pox; and one of these has been vaccinated.
4. From the joint influence of vaccination and small-pox inoculation, it is very probable that 713 deaths from natural smallpox have been prevented.
5. About half of those persons who have been given during the given period, with either of these diseases (viz. inoculation and cow-pox), and natural small-pox, or cow-pox, has been vaccinated.
6. Had all undergone vaccination, five or six would have died from smallpox; and five, or six hundred from cow-pox. Each person has died of smallpox after vaccination, 11 or 12 have died of inoculated smallpox.
7. In several parishes of Cambridge, in proportion to the diffusion of vaccination has been the prevention of smallpox. Two hundred and twenty-four cases of smallpox have occurred after supposed vaccination. In these cases (see 9) the disease was slight in 163; more severe but not contagious in 33; dangerous in 9 of 83.
8. The supervision of small-pox in persons previously vaccinated, has been incomparably more frequent of late than in former years.
9. The lapse of time does not impair the beneficial influence of cow-pox, in the persons of those who have it, to which 13. The vaccine virus has lost none of its efficacy from the time which has transpired, and the number of individuals through whom it has passed, since it was first taken from its original source.

Yellow Fever.—One of the most important questions for the public health, is to ascertain whether the yellow fever be or be not contagious. A very interesting fact has recently been mentioned on this subject in a memoir presented to the Academy of Sciences, by M. Costa. In the presence of that learned assembly, M. Costa, who is of opinion, supported by M. Laisi and Lasserre, that the yellow fever is not contagious; he has made a proposition which proves how strongly he is convinced of the truth of the cause he sustains. He desired that he might have the freedom for the interior should give orders to have brought forth the yellow fever generally raging, clothes belonging to the persons who may have fallen victims to this disease; 3d, to have the clothes should be deposited in jars, hermetically sealed and kept in a dry place; and finally, that the dress of perfect health should clothes themselves in these habitations, and wear them for forty days, under the most strict supervision of a committee, composed of men who may be most convinced of the doctrine of contagion. Well aware of the difficulty of finding men disposed to go through this experiment, and desirous to shufe his opinion of the conclusion of Dr. Laesi, he proposes himself, along with Dr. Lasserre, to be the objects of the experiment.—Journal des Debats.

Memmy.—Sir A. Edmonstone brought from Egypt, in 1821, and presented to Dr Granville, a very perfect mummy, which, on unwinding its very numerous bandages, presented the body of a female, so perfect, as to admit of measures being taken of its stature and proportions, which are, in all respects, the most precisely, those which Camper and Winkelmann have assigned to the prototype of ideal beauty, the statue of the Venus de Medicis.

By way of proof that the wax formed the preserving material of this mummy, the Doctor separated one of the nates, or divisions of the fleshly seat of his subject, and wholly deprived the same of the wax, by ebullition and maceration; and which, in consequence, is more directly to the purpose of this paper. This appears like the preparation of a recent specimen of this part of the body.

NITRATE OF POTASH.—To an old horse, about to be killed, was given a solution of five ounces of nitre; in four hours the animal was killed, and the urine having been reduced, by evaporation, to the consistence of syrup, was found, on cooling, to deposit some brownish crystals, which had all the characters of the crystals of the nitrate of potash. Many other examples are cited by Dr Wecker, who leaves no doubt of the immediate passage of this salt in the urine.

CARASSICO FOR A HORE.—Has lately been discovered, in the dried seeds of the plant Catenus tingitana, or even the husks thereof will serve, after the oil has been removed, as a good substitute for a strong animal, and less for a weakly one. Alone, alone mixed with calomel, have hitherto been the usual purging medicine of the veterinary surgeon. A single grain of the seeds is a dose for the human patient.

Disentum.—The dysentery prevails in Belfast, (Newcastle) and several neighboring towns in an alarming extent.

The 2d of May, one of the whole population in Brookes, has died within a week—fifty in Mountville, nine of whom lay dead at one time; many in Swansea, Knares and other towns. In Belfast nearly one half of the population have been attacked, and it is feared that about fifty have fallen victims to this and other diseases. Most of the deaths have happened among children under four years of age.

Charcoal.—An apparatus, called Carbovivire, has been invented by M. Mollerat, in France. This apparatus is so constructed as to extract the greatest possible quantity of carbon from the combustibles to which it is applied. In the carbonization of wood, thirty parts only in a hundred are fixed and produce charcoal, fifteen parts are converted into gas, twenty parts consist of water in a state of evaporation, twenty of pyrogallic acid, and a very small quantity which requires no less than two hundred and fifty degrees of heat to make it evaporate.

A young foreigner, representing himself to be a medical person, has been successfully ashing charity from the physicians in Boston, since which he has been seen greatly intoxicated in the streets.

We have with this day's paper forward the accounts of our subscribers, to which we would call their attention. The subscription is payable in advance.

We publish from Boston:

September 9: From the Health-Office Return:—

Elizabeth Nichols, 3d. John Kennedy, 2d. 4th. Child of John Lyon; Charles L. Hinks, 18 mo; Flann Colburn, 3d. 5th. Sarah C. Newby, 4th. 6th. Mary Cauley, 11. James Crowne, Jr. 9 mo; David Hall, 32; Mary Ann Hearn, 2d; Edward J. Robbins, 46; Caroline Hayden, 67; Thomas Frearck, 74; 7th. David Stark, 21; Angeline Hawes, 15 mo; Laura Ann, 9th. Robert D. Dean; 10th. Miss Mint; Ann Freeman. 8th. Wm. W. Owens, 71. Ann Banner, 72; John Bowles, 12 mo; Child of Daniel Flood; Charles Mitchell; William Malone; Hewryy Fish, 8th. 11th. CHALCOCR INFLUENCE.—3—Consumption, 3—Stillborn, 3 —Accidental, 1—Burner in the Boiles, 1—Dysentery, 5—Lung Fever, 1—Mastets, 1—Paralysis, 1—TYPHUS FEVER, 2—City Poar, 3.

Medical Lectures.

The annual course of Lectures of the New Hampshire Medical Institution will commence this Thursday, September 3th, 1825, and continue seventeen weeks. There will be four lectures daily. The Professors the same as last year. Fee for the course, $20.00. The two who have the highest distance in reciting and exhibiting may be had at one dollar twenty-five cents per week. Graduates to take place at the close of the term and at Commencement. Many important additions have this year been made to the Anatomical and Chymical departments. Among these is a rare exhibition of the ganglion nerves, and various interesting articles of electro-magnetic apparatus.

The class will be admitted to operations performed during the term last autumn, the class witnessed fifteen surgical operations.

Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H. Aug. 1, 1825.

Berkshire Medical Institution.

The Berkshire Medical Institution, located in Pittsfield, Berkshire co. Mass. in the centre of a dense and enlightened population, presents many advantages to the medical student. Its prosperity has been great and increasing in the last years. The efforts are making to render it a desirable place to attain a thorough and accomplished medical education. Ample provision has been made by the trustees for the personal accommodation of all students, and a most commodious lecture hall and an anatomical museum, embracing a great variety of models and preparations. It also contains many specimens of Natural History. The anatomical theatre is said to be the best in the United States. The annual lecture term commences on the second Wednesday in September, and continues fifteen weeks. Medical degrees are conferred at the close of the lectures and at the annual commencement at Williams College. Graduates who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and those who have attended two full courses of lectures at any regularly incorporated medical school, in which the lectures are given by an equal number of lecturers or professors, are admitted gratuitously. The requisites for an examination for a degree are, a good moral character, three years study (including the time spent in the work of Dr. Laesi), and satisfactory expense of a candidate having an adequate knowledge of the Latin language, and attendance on two full courses of lectures, one of which must have been in this institution. The examinations are for students commencing the first day preceding the close of the lecture term. Disquisitions must be lodged with the Dean of the Faculty, at least four weeks previous to commencement.


Fees for the whole course, 40; Graduating fees, 12; Matriculating Ticket, 3; Tick-

Berkshire Medical Institution, August 16, 1825.

To Medical Students.

A eligible situation for a student in medicine, is now vacant. The fee for tuition will be relinquished for some assistance in business. Inquire of the editor of this paper.
TYPHUS SYNCOPEALIS, SINKING TYPHUS,
OR THE SPOTTED FEVER OF NEW-ENGLAND, AS IT APPEARED IN THE EPIDEMIC OF 1823,
IN MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT.
BY T. MIXER, M. D.
(Continued from page 70.)

The countenance, in most of the severe cases, had a kind of leaden hue, with marks of anguish. In some, there were patches of a bright flush, intermingled with other patches that were preternaturally pale. In a few cases, the pupils of the eye were contracted, and in a few, dilated. In some cases, the organs of sight and hearing were irritable in the extreme; in others, they were equally torpid.

There were two prominent varieties of the tongue, the contracted and pointed, and the dilated and flabby. The fur of the tongue assumed every deviation possible from health, and was of every conceivable variety, except that it never had the appearance which is usually found in Sycocha. In the course of the disease, red tongue was rather more frequent than any other. Two uncommon varieties of fur sometimes occurred, one of which was a greenish slime, and the other a mucous, varying in appearance, from moist brown to light colored mucus. The former was rare; the latter, more common. Most of these varieties of tongue were liable to sudden changes in the same patients. In some of the protracted cases, there were aphthæ. A black tongue seldom appeared, and two or three instances of it only were noticed. On the whole, the state of the tongue was of very little service in diagnosis, or prognosis. In general, there was little or no thirst; but sometimes it was urgent. In such cases, it was generally aggravated by cold, water, and palliated or removed by a persevering use of emetics and saline washes.

The stomach, on the one hand, was usually as torpid and inactive as a leathern bag, so that in many instances, the patient would choose scalding hot liquids; or on the other, it was irritable in the extreme. [Note 7.] The change from one to the other of these extremes was generally sudden, and occasioned by slight causes, or took place without any assignable cause. In the majority of the severe cases of sudden death, unless the prevalence of the disease was immediately subdued by very energetic practice, terror prevailed for the first two days; but for the succeeding three or five, the irritability would be so extreme, that without the nicest and most careful management, vomiting or retching would be incessant. The matter ejected, generally consisted of little more than the dregs, or secreted mucus. In a few instances, it was greenish; in a very few, dark colored. Though in some instances this vomiting was very troublesome, yet there was never any bile evacuated, except in two or three instances, who had long labored under a chronic bilious disease, or except as the consequence of an ill-timed emetic or cathartic. [Note 8.] Indeed, the vomiting or nausæa, in this disease, seemed ordinarily to be entirely symptomatic of an affection of the brain, or was obviously the effect of an emetic or cathartic, the sympathies being the reverse of sick-head-ache. This was evinced by its being excited by raising or moving the head, or by placing the patient in an erect posture, and relieved, by a recumbent position; and especially, by blisters to the forehead, temples, and more particularly, to the vertex. Blisters to the region of the stomach alone, though of much service, produced much less effect in relieving this symptom.

With the exception of the few cases that commenced with Diarrhoea, Cholera, or Dysentery, the bowels were naturally torpid. [Note 9.] Ischory, from mere terror of the bladder, was much more common, than in other low typhoid diseases. There was a profuse discharge of urine in a few cases. In general, in common with ordinary low Typhus of the nervous type, there was nothing in the appearance of this excretion. Indeed, the excretion was either more offensive, or much less so, through the whole course of the disease, than in health; and the alimentary canal was not disturbed by any thing which it contained naturally. The eructations and ejections of air had no peculiar, disagreeable odor, there was no fetor of the breath, and in all stages, as well at the bed-side of the dying, as at the access of the disease, there was no fetid smell. [Note 10.]

The condition of the brain, in this disease, was usually very similar to that state which is produced by exposure to Carbonic-acid gas, or which is occasioned by excessive doses of some preparations of Lead, or of certain essential oils, or of active and pure narcotics. In many cases it resembled concussion, or apoplexy, or palsy. In all the severe, and in a majority of the mild cases, there was from the very access, before a particle of medicine had been taken, a peculiar deficiency of vital energy in the brain, and the whole nervous system, so that raising the patient into the erect posture would generally produce the same sort of vertigio, anxiety at the stomach, acceleration and irregularity of the pulse, nausea, and even fainting, which result from a similar position after a great loss of blood. In almost every instance the patient was much more comfortable when the head was low; and much inconvenience and even danger, was almost invariably occasioned from any other than a horizontal posture. [Note 11.]

The mind was more or less affected in every severe case. In the majority of such cases, after the patient was induced to apply for medical advice, there was a morbid fear, entirely independent of any existing urgency or danger of symptoms, and of any information respecting sickness and death in the vicinity. The public were not panic-struck, as the deaths were so few, as to cause very little alarm.* Fear, therefore, was

* When it is generally known, that only one in twenty-five or thirty dies, of those who labor under this disease if it is properly managed, it will be divested of most of its terrors. Besides, when it is recollected that even the majority of those fatal cases fall a sacrifice to

rarely a predisposing or exciting cause in this town, though it evidently was in some of the adjoining. In some cases, there was a morbid clearness of intellect, attended with incessant loquacity, or there was too great watchfulness, and extreme restlessness; both of which states were always, sooner or later, followed by delirium or coma. [Note 12.] Nearly every case of delirium that appeared, was accompanied by coma; and every case of coma was not attended with delirium. In some cases, the delirium resembled intoxication; in many, Hystera; and in others, it was of the low muttering kind, such as is common in ordinary low fever. In some few cases, there was no other delirium than what was manifested by a false estimate of the disease; the patient, when in the greatest danger, instead of showing any signs of fear or apprehension, insisting that he was but slightly sick. In most cases which received early and judicious medication, delirium did not occur at all.

Except where there are convulsions, or, in a very few instances, where something like maniacal exertion appears, or when the fever counterfeits Delirium-tremens, the affection of the brain in this disease, (unlike many head-affections in Pneumonia-typhodes, and common Typhus,) rarely produces any increased muscular strength; but on the contrary, it usually occasions great languor, and inability for muscular exertion, which is more especially manifested when the patient is in a supine posture. As has before been observed, this debility was a kind of paralysis, and appeared to arise from a partial extinction of the vital principle, more resembling the effect of excessive doses of the active and pure narcotics, or of a sudden and violent concussion of the brain, than the exhaustion of the latter stages of common fever. The exhaustion or deficiency of vital energy in both cases, appears to be the same; only, at the end of protracted fevers, there is a great waste of the solids and fluids of the body, which must be repaired before much muscular strength is acquired.

In many of the severe cases, the patient on going to sleep, would fall into a state resembling insomnious, with difficult or partially suspended respiration, which would require his being awakened their rapidly tampering with emetics or cathartics themselves, before a physician is called, the sense of danger will still be vastly lessened. No severe disease is so much under the control of medication, in the great majority of cases, as Typhus-syncopeal, if it is only taken in season, and managed with judgment and decision. Without the advice of a physician, no medication ought to be attempted in cases of sudden attack, except warming the patient with external heat and stimulating applications, and giving him freely to drink of hot aromatic infusions, such as sage, pennyroyal or mint. In the infectious cases, or under predisposition, two teaspoonfuls of compound tincture of the bark in half a glass of wine, four times a day, is prescribed by some physicians. It is not a physician cannot be procured. From the best calculation, when this disease in 1823 prevailed the most, there never was, at one time, more than one person in a hundred, or hundred and fifty, of the population that would yield to an attack, when it is not a physician is asked or procured. From the best calculation, when this disease in 1823 prevailed the most, there never was, at one time, more than one person in a hundred, or hundred and fifty, of the population that would yield to an attack, when it is not a physician is asked or procured.
as often as once every five minutes; and some could not be allowed to sleep longer at one time for several days, without their spontaneously waking in the most excreting fright and distress, and finding themselves greatly exhausted.

During the progress of the epidemic, every variety of pulse occurred, except the strong and hard, and this often in the same patient. In many of the mild cases, and in most of the others, till the period of fatal sinking, it was rarely so frequent as in health; but towards the close of life, in several of the fatal cases, it was 120 or 30, and occasionally, 160 in a minute. In less than twelve hours, it would sometimes vary in frequency from 40, to 130. In one instance, it was as slow as 27 beats in a minute, and in six or eight hours varied to 130. This patient recovered so rapidly, that he was able to ride out in a week from his first attack. After the disease was fairly formed, whether it was moderate or severe, an erect or sitting posture would almost uniformly accelerate the pulse 40 or 50 beats in a minute, and sometimes double its frequency, besides producing considerable irregularity. In a very few cases, the pulse was 120 at the very first attack. The pulse alone, (as is the case with the tongue,) is a very deceptive guide in this fever. At various times in the course of this disease, and even in the dying, it would occasionally give a delusive feel of fullness and force, that often deceived the very best judges respecting the danger, unless attention was particularly directed to other symptoms. [Note 13.] In such circumstances, former epidemics, bleeding has been seriously proposed by a counsellor, while the attending physician knew the patient to be actually in articulo mortis. In other epidemics, in which this disease was mistaken for active inflammation of the brain, or for Apoplexy, when the patient has been bled, death has ensued, before the ligature could be taken from the arm. [Note 14.] In most of the worst cases, the circulation was daily so languid, by turns, that the extremities had a livid appearance, and were often nearly pulseless. One patient at least recovered, that was without pulse at the wrist for several hours. Some of the fatal cases were attended with a very distressing palpitation of the heart.

A very prominent symptom, which occurred in some degree in almost every instance, even of the mild cases, and probably without an exception in all the severe, and happened in every stage, sometimes constituting the first access of the disease, consisted of paroxysms of sobrietias, or a death-like sinking sensation in the epigastrium, which was sometimes accompanied by some distress, sometimes as a painful sense of vacuity and faintness, sometimes as trembling or fluttering, sometimes as real pain and anguish, and at others, was declared to be utterly indescribable. During the existence of these paroxysms, the coolness and numbness of the skin, the lividness of the extremities, the feebleness of the pulse, and the indications of distress in the countenance, were much augmented. Sometimes, these paroxysms of sinking, were attended with palpitation and often with spasm; though spasm, tremors and subsultus were not uncommon in every stage. In the mild cases, these paroxysms of sinking, occurred regularly in the morning; but in the severest, they were not confined to any particular hour of the day. Singultus was extremely rare, as also was induration, inflated, or tympanic abdomen. [Note 15.]

In many of those cases which were neglected, or treated with evacuants, or in which the early symptoms were not decisively and fully met and subdued by appropriate remedies, a peculiar and somewhat different, and usually irreparable sinking and exhaustion occurred, after a critical effort, or in lieu of a crisis, on the third, fifth, or more commonly, the seventh day. In a few cases, it did not occur till the end of the second or third week. Under such circumstances, in addition to the sinking in common with other cases, the inspiration was interrupted and peculiar, and much resembled that of the dying, or rather that of animals (as it is described) after a division of the Par Vagum, the inspirations occurring only at intervals of several seconds, and being usually long and full, while the expirations were so short, that the breath was parted with instantaneous. This critical sinking, in combination with morbid respiration, was often the first warnings of danger to the patients and attendants, in the insidious cases, and it was almost invariably irremediable; for, although every symptom could be met, for a time, to the full extent, and although the most decided operative effects of medicine could be produced, and life often be prolonged for days, yet the weight of the disease could rarely be lessened, and in one of the succeeding critical efforts, the same symptoms would almost inevitably prove fatal. In other fatal cases, the disease terminated in a deadly coma. Paroxysms of coma were periodical in some instances, as were those of sinking in others. The former description of sinking and anxiety, which was particularly referred to the epigastrium, in distinction from the critical, may be termed ordinary sinking. It was usually relieved when taken in season, and treated with energy. [Note 16.]

Hemorrhages were rare in this disease; but when they did occur, they were mostly fatal. One case of a child which died on the seventh day, was attended with symptoms of Chorea. One or two cases were seen that resembled Delirium-tremens. [Note 17.] Many had most of the symptoms of Hydrocephalus-internus. Several retained their habitual relish for strong tea, snuff, and tobacco, through the whole course of the disease. Milk-porridge, or broth, was the food that generally sat easiest on the stomach. In a few cases, there was a strong disposition to eat heartily of solid animal food. In those in which this appetite was moderately indulged, it seemed to digest properly; at any rate, it produced no sort of inconvenience.

Chorea, in the ordinary fevers, in this disease, the symptoms were generally much more urgent and severe in the morning, than in the afternoon or evening; that is, the patient was most dangerous during the remission. The reaction of the exacerbation in the afternoon, though it did not reach the standard of health, and could not even be considered as reaction at all in common fevers, made the patient comparatively easy. When there was a resolution of the disease at its outset, a relapse would infallibly supervene suddenly, upon any considerable irregu-

larities of com. As they were periodical in some, but when the disease had once run its course, there were very few relapses during convalescence. There were several repeated attacks, after the most perfect recovery: and several of the patients had had the disease the preceding year. [Note 18.] Critical periods were most prominently observed. When a case was protracted longer than five or seven days, as in the last stage of almost every acute fever, the disease appeared, though still more liable to severe and fatal sinking at the critical periods, not very unlike common low Typhus, in which delirium, tremens, subsultus, low and sinking of the pulse was not easily distinguished from it, especially by counsellors, who could not witness its whole course.

(Note to be continued.)

LECTURES ON PHRENOLOGY.

RECENTLY DELIVERED IN LONDON, BY DR SPERLING.

(Continued from page 62.)

COMBATIVENESS.

Let us now proceed to the consideration of another question. What is the reason why animals fight? Is there a fundamental power in nature to cause some individuals to be very pugnacious? In the different species of animals, we see that some are very timid and fearful, whilst others like to fight, take a pleasure in fighting. Indeed, all animals have derived their name from the manifestation of their pugnacity, as the fighting cocks, and many others; we see that they are amused by fighting, and if we let them alone they will attack each other. In mankind we observe many amused by seeing others fight. What is the cause of this? We find that nature has given a peculiar instinct to certain beings which provokes them to fight. If we look to nature, we find some species of animals more disposed to fight than others; what is the cause of this? There is strength, say some, but do we not see that some animals attack and fight others larger and stronger than themselves; the dunghill cock has stronger muscles than the fighting cock, yet we find that the latter overcomes the former. You may observe among the dogs in the streets, that little dogs will often attack great ones, and the great dogs will run away. I will not deny the influence of muscles, I consider the muscles to be very important, but they are merely as instruments. There is something else, both in man and in animals, which dispossesses them to fight. You will see some men who are little qualified for it to all appearance, yet display great courage, and who are every minute ready to fight. You will see little boys attack great ones, and the great ones will run away, or will give up their playthings to them; but let the great boys try to take away any thing from the others, and you will see what they will do; you will always find such boys broad here. Here are the cases of two men of your country, known as men of personal courage, Shenton and Curtis, and you will observe that they are very broad here. (Pointing to the organ of combativeness, marked No. 5.) The broader the head is in this part, the more personal courage are they found to possess. I have here two skulls of the Chinese, the one of the Tartar tribe, and the other of the genuine Chinese, and the second is narrower than the first. Whenever a tribe fancies to make an invasion into the territory of another tribe, if they have their heads broad here, after a little interval of time, the warriors of the tribe will be seen to have broad heads; if they have narrow heads, they will be seen to have narrow heads; you may be sure that they will become masters. There are facts of that kind recorded in history, showing that considerable nations have been
overcome by others less in number, and of less physical force.

Here is the skull of Robert Bruce, and you may observe that it is very broad here about. This is the cast of the skull of an Hindoo; I have seen fifteen or sixteen skulls of Hindoos, and they have all been narrow here. I do not mean to say that all Hindoos are so; but those who have the opportunity of observing, would render great service to phrenology, if they would regard this more particularly. It would be necessary, when persons bring skulls from different nations, to give more details with them, as to the character and the habits of such nations. We know that although the Hindoos are generally speaking, a very timid race of men, yet there are some tribes among them which possess great personal courage. Hence it would not do to form an estimate of any people by a few skulls, unaccompanied by any description, or say this is the skull of an Hindoo, or of a Chinese, speaking of a nation when a tribe ought only to be mentioned. It seems that the ancient artists had some knowledge of the office of this part of the brain, for they have given great development of it to the Gladiators, as well as the other lower propensities. It is certainly curious that they should have given to such men more brain posterior than anteriorly. You will see that those persons who are distinguished for personal courage, are broad in this part of the head, and this is a part of the brain common to man and animals. You have many more shy horses in this country than there are in France; on the other hand you will see a greater number of vicious horses in Paris than in London, catery parihs. You will distinguish in the horses in France a greater breadth between the ears, than you will in the shy horses of London. The broader the horse's head is here about, the more personal courage is he found to possess. If you look at the fighting cocks, and compare them with the dashing cock, you will see that the former are much broad in this part of the head. (Three specimens of the heads of the fighting and anguill, or Malay cocks, were shewn.) So then it is quite certain, that there is a distinct organization for this power. Some animals are not only courageous to defend themselves, but they appear to take a pleasure in their individual contests.

FLANNEL.

From a review of the different substances worn next the skin, it would appear that wool has greatly the advantage over the others. Flannel, by its gentle stimulus on the skin, has the beneficial effect of keeping the pores in a state the most favorable to perspiration. In flannel, the discharge by perspiration proceeds uniformly; but not so in linen, when soiled with the moisture of the skin. The different effects of flannel and linen are particularly perceptible during brisk exercise. When both are dressed over with the former, though perspiration be necessarily increased, the perspired matter passes off through flannel into the atmosphere or air, and the skin remains dry and warm. If the same exercise be taken in linen shirts, perspiration, as in the former case, is indeed also increased, but the perspired matter, instead of being dispersed into the atmosphere, remains upon the linen, and not only clogs the pores, but gives a disagreeable sensation.

Flannel has another advantage which merits attention. As it do not retain the humors discharged from the skin, people who perspire profusely in flannel shirts will not easily catch cold. On going into the open air, it is not the case in respect of linen shirts, which, by retaining the perspired matter, will occasion a sensation of chilliness, often followed by a violent cold, and sometimes even fatal effects.

The prejudices of people have been much excited, both in favor of flannel and against it. It has been objected, that flannel worn next the skin occasions weakness, by too much increasing perspiration: but this objection seems not to be founded in truth, since perspiration scarcely ever causes immediate or hurtful, as long as the skin remains dry.

Flannel, when first used, is often apt to cause an uneasy sensation, but this soon goes off. In those who wear flannel, the skin, on being much rubbed, will become red and inflamed; but we ought not on that account, to infer that flannel produces cutaneous eruption; on the contrary, by preserving the pores open, and increasing perspiration, it tends greatly to remove the cause of cutaneous eruptions, which arise chiefly from an irregular state of that discharge through the pores of the skin.

The prejudice against the use of flannel next the skin seems to be owing, in great measure, to the effects which ensue, from not changing it sufficiently often; but this objection is to be imputed to the wearer, not to the flannel itself.

It must be acknowledged, that the advantages above mentioned strongly recommend the use of flannel as a preservative of health, particularly to those who are exposed to all kinds of weather. It has the additional advantage of being suitable to all seasons, and of compensating a deficiency of upper dress. Extraordinary beneficial effects have been experienced from flannel in a variety of cases. In gout, and, particularly, rheumatic habits, it has operated with singular advantage. In obstinate coughs, where symptoms of consumption were apparent, it has proved highly serviceable; and upon the whole, it merits a more general and extensive application than it has ever yet obtained.

SICKNESS IN THE COUNTRY.

We learn from different quarters that an unusual degree of sickness prevails in many towns in the country. From Lynn, we are informed that there has not been so much since the prevailing typhus fever of 1812. The mortality has been considerable, principally from dysentery. In Framingham and its vicinity, fever of an unusually inflammatory character has been prevalent, and somewhat fatal. Dysentery, in several towns in the eastern, middle, and southern states, has been very severe. From various accounts there is reason to believe there is considerable peculiarity in the epidemic diseases of this season. Physicians have opportunities for making careful observations, and sometimes with results. By the 30th of April (4 weeks having then elapsed) there was scarcely any thing but debility remaining. The meningial symptoms had entirely disappeared; but the bowels were a good deal disordered. The child was reduced almost to a skeleton. Between the 26th of Nov. 1824, and the 19th of Jan. 1825, 8 weeks, this child took sixty-four scruples, more than two ounces and five drachms of calomel, without any inflammation or affection of the gums, or any other symptom which could be attributed to this source. He continued well till the 15th of February, when he was taken suddenly with very severe bronchial inflammation, and died in six days.—Lond. Med. Repos.

CASE OF STRANGULATED FEMORAL HERNIA.

June 26th, 1825. The contents of the sac were a small portion of intestine, which was returned, and omentum; the latter appearing to the operator so completely adherent to the mouth of the sac, he thought he could not separate it without danger to the patient. Soon after the operation copious stools were produced, and the patient seemed to be going on well. On
Tuesday, however, he was seized with vomiting, with pain, tenderness, and tension of the abdomen, indicating peritoneal inflammation; he was bled freely, and leeches and other means used to subdue the attack. Continuing to get worse, on Wednesday another surgeon was asked to see him, who said he would not survive another night, which opinion was verified by the event of his death during the evening.

**Dissection.**—The intestines were found very much distended with flatus, and the omentum adhering to the mouth of the sac, tightly stretched in front of them, and dragging on the stomach.

**Case of Retention of Urine.**

The following case, although it admitted of speedy relief, is interesting in a practical point of view.

July 2d, a boy about four years of age, had not passed any urine for two days; upon examination, the bladder was found to be enormously distended, giving much pain to the patient when pressed upon. In the lower part of the perineum, on the right side, was found considerable rectus and swelling, which at first led to the belief of extravasation of urine; a catheter was with some little difficulty passed, and no stricture was found; nearly a quart of high colored urine was drawn off; eight leeches were directed to be applied to the inflamed part in the perineum, with warm fomentations, and a dose of castor oil was given immediately. On the following day a fluctuation was evident in the perineum, and it was rightly considered that an abscess had formed, and that the pressure of matter in the urethra occasioned the constant labour.

Upon passing a lancet into the tumor, a considerable quantity of matter was discharged; poultices were ordered to be applied.

July 16th, the catheter was passed, and leeches again applied. The child was going on well, and passed his urine freely.

**Concussion of the Brain.**

June 11th, H. D. aged 54, was in a state of insensibility from concussion of the brain, occasioned by falling from a height of 20 feet. His superior extremities were a little injured, but his head seemed to have received most injury. As there was no fracture or dislocation of the bones of the superior extremity, nothing was done to the patient for half an hour, when he was bled to 3 xxx. after which he seemed rather easier and more sensible until the next morning at 7 o'clock, when he seemed comatose and insensible, and was again bled to 3 xxx. July 16th, he still remained in a soporose state, with the pupils dilated, and every symptom of effusion in the substance of the brain, with no hopes of recovery. Cold applications constantly to the head.

**VARIETIES.**

**Medical Work in Turkey.**—A medical work has made its appearance, the only one of this character in Constantinople; it is in folio, of 300 pages, with 56 copper-plate engravings, on anatomy and medicine, entitled, "Mirai al abt et tehch of usul," by Chain Zadeel Medineh-Ahs-Oslash, member of the religious judicial order of the amira. The Ulemites fill the offices of ministers of religion, of the laws, of equity, and have always endeavored to crush the rising genius of the nation. It is not, therefore, a little surprising that a work on anatomy, physiology, medicine, and therapeutics, should be published by one of this fraternity. The substance of the work appears to be a translation from various French works. The author being a Mussulman, who says on vaccination is very interfering only one during 160 days, and the many advantages it has over inoculation; he concludes by giving directions as to its use, and with some of the vaccine virus brought from the village of Ain-o-aga, many thousands have been vaccinated in Turkey.

**Electrical Eel.**—A specimen of the Gymnatus Electricus has lately been exhibited by the Parisian surgeon, who was satisfied with a single touch, and consequent shock: but one doctor, either urged by a greater zeal for science, or governed by a more intractable curiosity, resolved to try the utmost exertion to escape the animal by the use of his hands. In this situation he remained a considerable time, and would in all probability have expired under the agony of his sensations, if some of the persons present had not, by applying to him a strong shock, suddenly draw him into cold water; when the eel immediately dropped off. The doctor has since been dangerously ill.

**Potash.**—The preparation of potash from the green stalks of potatoes, has been attempted in France by M. Mollet; who, on cutting off the stalks immediately before flowering, and, on other plots, deferring the cutting off the stalks until two or three months after the flowering, found that the yield of sub-carbonate of potash, in the first instance, 3.5 times those of the latter cuttings; but the yield of potatoes was in the latter cases 9.7 times that of the first.

**Formic Acid.**—According to the recent experiments of M. Dobereiner, the formation of formic acid may be regarded as constituted of one volume of the vapor of water, and two volumes of carbonic acid gas, 2 volumes of oxygen, and three of hydrogen.

**Oxalate of Lime.**—The electrical powers of oxalate of lime, according to experiments by Mr. Faraday, to place this substance at the head of the list of all substances as yet tried, as to its power of becoming positively electrical by friction, although the oxalates of zinc and lead produce some of these effects.

**Fermentable Mixtures.**—The galvanization of fermentable mixtures has been found by M. Colin to promote the evolution of alcohol. Of a great variety of substances which this gentleman tried as fermenta, he found none at all comparable with common yeast, except glairy albumen. —Ann. de Chim.

**Brain, Ova, and Semen.**—An analogy between the brain, ova, and semen of animals, has lately been shown by Sir E. Hune, aided by the acute eye and delicate hand of Mr. Boucher, in that in freezing and subsequent thawing these substances results in an apparently similar watery fluids and gelatinous matters.

**Cerebral Operation.**—This operation was recently performed by Dr. Blackwell, Eng.; on a patient, Mr. Willock, by Mr. Buley, surgeon, in presence of Dr. Marshall and Mr. Hardy, of Whitley, when two fine girls were extracted, who are still alive and likely to do well. The mother bore the operation with great fortitude, and her health seemed to be as good as ever. The patient was sent away until the day following, when inflammation came on, and terminated her existence in twenty-four hours.

**Medical News.**—Sir Walter Scott observes — it is remarkable that although very many, perhaps the greatest number of successful medical men, have assumed a despotic authority over their patients after their character was established, few or none have risen to eminent practice, who used the same word of command in the commencement of their practice. Hasty impatience of listening to petty complaints, and a want of sympathy with those who labor under no real indisposition, are great obstacles to success.

**Williams College.**—The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on Judah L. Bliss, Elias R. Hornbeck, Miller Sabin, George Smith, Ambrose Brown, and David Williams—students of the Berkshire Medical Institution; John Davenport, V. C. Smith, M. D. of Boston, was admitted ad eundem.

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**Bowdoin College.**—Commencement, Sept. 7th. The degree of Doctor of Medicine, in course, was conferred on Daniel Thurbur, physician, of Mendon, Mass.

**Small-Pox.**—On the 16th ult. the number of cases of small-pox, in New-Orleans, was not less than thirty.

**Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston.**

Ending September 14th from the Health-Office Returns. —John Bull, 17; Susan Thompson, Sarah Phelan, 34; Nancy Crosby, 42. 11th.—Sarah Ann Sharon, 11 mo; Samuel Stratton, 28; Phoebe Burt, 10. —12th.—John Dovany, 36; Daniel Connan, 36; Patience Conell, Jude W. Gore, 15 mo; John Mitchell, 12 mo; Francis Lovell Clark, 52 mo; Benj. F. Washburn, 22; Child of Jesse Brevett, 26. 13th.—J. J. Ely, 26; Dill Wilson, 53. 14th.—John Worrall, 42; Daniel M. H. Brown, 42; Daniel J. Corencle, 9; William Jackson, 33; Jenediah Ross, 15; Elizabeth S. Thorne, dike, 11 mo; Andrew Sawyer, 1; William Madder, 28; Thomas Christie, 58. 15th.—Child of Thomas R. Sullivan, 19; Child of Charles S. Ackland, 9; Judah Beers 64; Amosones Jones, Jr., 16 mo; Lucy D. J. Burr, 36. 16th.—John Baco, 32; Mary Lee, 37; Charlotte N. Copeland, 3 weeks; Catharine Quills, 2; Honour Cornel, 4; Elias P. Shepard, 4-1-3.

**Dysentery.**—Consumption, 2; Liver, 1; Infantile, 1; Typhus Fever, 1; Dyes, 4; Cholera Infantis, 1; Teething, 2; Silphora, 1; Sudden, 1; Cholera Morbus, 1; Lungs, 1; Conker, 1; Children, 5; Hooping-Cough, 1; Dupuy in the Head, 1; City Poor, 2.

**ATHEMEN: OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.**


**Contents.**—Count Koningsgeld and his Ancestors—A Journey to the Moon in the Night Storm—A Set Down—Some Passages in the Life of Colonel Cloud—Dreams of Eurydiny—Eastern Stories—Lines to W.—Lines to the Italian Harp—Stanzas to a Friend—Village Sketches—Harry and Lucy concluded—Dr. Abraham Rennec (=) His Wives—The Theatre of George Barnwell—Brother Jonathan; or, The New-Englander—Corregio—Retort uncontrollable—

Published on the 1st and 15th of every month.
OBSERVATIONS.


BY T. MINER, M. D. (Concluded from page 74.)

The treatment, as respects degree, was almost as various as the number of cases; but it was alike in kind, in all; and there was abundant evidence, of the necessity of avoiding every thing that might waste the vital powers. This was more especially the fact, with respect to evacuations, which, if copious, invariably rendered the mild cases severe, and the severe ones fatal. Probably more than three-fourths of the fatal cases were the consequence of spontaneous or facultious purging or vomiting. Emetics did not answer at all, as the mildest would almost inevitably produce incessant vomiting, if not controlled by very large doses of Opium, or by great quantities of Laudanum by enema, would end in exhaustion and death. [Note 19.] More than two-thirds of the cases of Calomel, as was observed, were at first very slightly purged with Calomel, so guarded as not to operate before twelve or eighteen hours. It was necessary to manage laxatives with the greatest caution, and very generally, to conjoin them with Opium. Calomel, accompanied with a diaphoretic regimen, if retained on the stomach twelve hours without operating by the bowels, in all but cases, would lessen, and often remove all the morbid action; yet, much more caution was necessary in this process, to ensure a resolution, than in common Typhus. Nevertheless, more than two copies dejections never took place, without the most obvious injury. It is as safe to leave a wounded artery to nature, as in this disease, to administer a cathartic, without directing its free operation to be instantly checked by opium. Those patients, who, on their own accord attempted, at the outset of the disease, to purge themselves, even with Castor-oil, provided it operated more than once or twice, were commonly found by the physician; in the same state, to be perfect than a dying state, and always required the most auscultous exertions for their recovery. Several who adopted this plan were seen, who could never be raised, and obviously sunk down and died, in consequence of it. One patient was seen, that sunk irretrievably, by a single operation of an enema. In about a fourth of those patients who had the disease in its severest form, a judicious physician would no more think, at first, of vomiting or purging than of employing those processes to mitigate the severity of the disease. In several of the worst cases, cathartics could not be made to operate, while the patient was in the weakest state, and there was not the least inconvenience, from having nothing pass the bowels for a week; and in some of these, when the

patient was considerably better, the bowels spontaneously resumed their natural action. The proper time for evacuating the bowels in the lowest cases was indicated by tenderness of the abdomen, uneasiness, or slight pain, which showed that the torpor of the intestines was ceased. Under these circumstances, the discharges were never indurated, but were always perfectly natural. In many cases, a single enema, or a small quantity of Magnesia, or Rhubarb, or an aloetic pill, was necessary as an emetic or a laxative, or at farthest, as a laxative, once in two or three days. It is to be observed, that the Opium should not be abstracted on account of the laxative action of the cathartic. [Note 20.] The on the whole, the best way of evacuating the bowels, appeared to be produced, by giving daily about a dram of Magnesia, and if necessary, assisting it every other day by an enema.

The opinion, that in this disease, and more especially in any of the distinctly marked cases, purging would increase the susceptibility to the impression of stimulants was then and is now erroneous. The morbid action could not be changed in the severest cases, by evacuating and alteratives; it could only be controlled by exciting and supporting the vital powers by stimulants. [Note 20.] As a general rule in this epidemic, it might be affirmed of cathartics, with the utmost certainty, evacuant per procul, necessum per se. In every instance, the mildest forms of the disease were rendered severe and irremediable, by free purging or vomiting. If they did not sink, which was usually the fact, they became febrile, and severe fevers, which were obstinate and irremediable. [Note 21.] In a few bad cases, in which a slight mercurial action was excited, it was of no use; and in such cases, if irritable, stranguary from Cantharides only distressed the patient.

Opium was the most important remedy in the severe form of this disease, and was, in such cases, administered by the first visit. A few cases impressively required half an ounce of the tincture in an hour, or half a dram in substance, in the course of twelve hours, before the urgent symptoms could be controlled; and even some cases required a dram in the same time. All these patients recovered. In nearly every fatal case of this year, there were circumstances to prevent a free use of medicine. The whole of those patients, whose symptoms were promptly met with Opium, invariably recovered. Opium enough, assisted by external applications, would command every peculiar symptom, with the most certain, as any effect can be promised from medicine, except the extreme sinking, after a critical effort, in a neglected, or ill-managed case; and even in this forlorn state, it always mitigated much of the anxiety and distress, and prolonged life. Many other articles, however, were very useful in the course of this disease.

Alcohol was highly beneficial in some cases, and required to be employed freely in many, but it seemed not to be equally adapted to all, and on the whole, was of much less importance than Opium. Wine seemed totally unfit for the severest or cases. [Note 22.] Lyttle and Capsicum internally, were very serviceable in the torpid cases, but were entirely unmanageable, and greatly increased the irritability of most of those which were previously irritable. Arsenic, (Fowler’s Mineral Solution,) was highly serviceable when the head was very much affected, and the stomach at the same time torpid. In some irritable cases it answered well, but it was necessary to adjust the dose very accurately, in order to have its full effect on the one hand, and not offend the stomach on the other. In those cases however, it agreed better than anything else, except opium, or perhaps Alcohol and astringents. Delirium resembling mania, was occasionally relieved by tincture of Stramonium, combined with tincture of Opium. Camphor and Ammonia answered a good purpose in the more moderate cases, but were worse than nothing in most of the severe. Either was of no use for permanent support, but was occasionally very serviceable during the sinking paroxysms. The same was true of Peppermint and other essential oils. Oil of Turpentine was not used internally. [Note 23.] Cinchona, and the other vegetable bitters and tonics, did not the least good in the severe cases. They were too slow in their action to produce a perceptible effect, till after a crisis, or in the protracted stage of such cases, as assumed the form of common Typhus. After convalescence commenced, they were often useful to assist in retaining the ground which had been gained, and to accelerate recovery. In these instances, if the stomach was irritable, Sulphate of Quinine was preferable to any other preparation of Cinchona. [Note 24.] In all the varieties of this disease, internal medicines were greatly assisted by external applications, which were adjuvants that could never, with safety, be omitted. When it was practicable, the early use of the hot-bath was of great service, and it was much to be regretted, that it could not be oftener employed in the first stage. Warm or tepid bathing, was rather injurious. The water should be so hot, as to make as strong an impression as can be borne, without danger of blisters. When strong wind at the same time quick rubefacients were required, bottles of hot water, heated bricks or wood, hot spirits, Mustard, Liqueur of Ammonia, Capsicum, and Oil of Turpentine, were important agents. Epispastics of Cantharides would produce no effect, in many cases, till the skin had been first excited in this way; but as soon as the susceptibility of the patient was raised, by internal and external means, to the blistering point, the freest application and repetition of them, was attended with the most beneficial effects. They were especially useful to the swollen vertex, forehead, temples, spine, epigastrium and extremities. In every case, (the very mildest are not without safety excepted,) the forehead, and in the severe, the vertex should be immediately blistered. Shaving the head, and blistering it early, is more serviceable than any other external application. Torpor of the bladder almost invariably yielded to stimulants, or more especially, to blisters on the
inside of the thighs. So sensible were these patients who had their reason, of the beneficial effect of blisters, that they frequently begged to have them repeated. To one patient, more than twenty blisters, and to another, more than thirty were applied during the course of this disease, and evidently with the greatest advantage. Oil of Turpentine, warmed, and confined to prevent evaporation, was the speedy epidemic, and was of much benefit in coma. In a very few cases, there supervened such a peculiar irritation in the latter stage, that blisters required to be repeated with caution, on account of straignty, as this symptom, in irritable cases, sometimes increased the morbid action. It always lessened it, in cases of horror. In no other disease is it so essential to distinguish counteracting, from coinciding agents. But after all, in the severest forms of this disease, Opium, Alcohol, Arsenic, aromatics, and external applications, with no other medicament, might be depended upon.

In the mildest cases, after cautious purging with Calomel, the prescriptions were almost negligeable;—salt, soda, calomel, cold water, or cold water, muscular exertion, an eruption of any considerable length of time, much purging, and various other hurtful measures. Numbers of cases might be stated, in which the patients, while laboring under an apparently moderate disease, from a false idea that they should gain strength by sitting up, have produced the most dangerous symptoms of vertigo and sinking, some of which have been followed by death. Many of the severest cases did not admit of being moved from their beds for several days; since the slightest revolution or simple motion was liable to produce a severe paroxysm of sinking, and increase the exhaustion to such a degree, as to require hours to regain the ordinary strength. Some slight cases might be trusted to aromatic, bitter infusions, alone; others, to Camphor and Ammonia. In several of these, no Calomel, or Opium, or Alcohol, or any active medicine, was needed or employed, provided all hurtful measures were studiously avoided. In many, a blister to the forehead, Serpentina, Camphor and Ammonia, Compound Tincture of Cinchona, and Opium in very small quantities, were all that were required. Profuse sweating from external heat was useless in the mild, and inefficient, or injurious in the worst form of the disease, unless employed at the very access; and in this stage, it could rarely be used with convenience. By the time a physician is called, it is generally too late for sweating to be of much service; though, when employed very early in cases of sudden attack, it is sometimes capable of breaking up the disease, especially in the torpid variety. Under such circumstances, it ought generally to be tried. [Note 25.] The duration, severity, and mortality of this disease, depend more than any other, upon the early management.

On the whole, it must be repeated, the epidemic afforded the most decisive evidence, in favor of the efficacy of a free use of Opium, when employed in season, for the removal of coma, and other atomic affections of the brain. When the early treatment was efficient, there was sometimes a reaction in twenty-four hours, or the disease rarely lasted longer than five or seven days; but when the practice was so timid and inert, that it was only partially to meet the symptoms, if the patient did not immediately sink, it was generally protracted somewhat in the form of common Typhus, fourteen, or twenty-one days, and in some few cases, four or five weeks. [For other particulars concerning principles and practice, see Essays on Fevers, etc. especially those parts of the work which treat of the irregular varieties.]

This epidemic, very obviously, was not common Typhus, as that term is intended to include the nervous and putrid fevers of the older authors. What then was it? It has been questioned whether it was exclusively the same as the Spotted-Fever of 1809, and by those who did not witness the disease, even whether that epidemic differed essentially from common Typhus, or Nervous-Fever. The peculiar and extreme deficiency of vital energy in the brain and nervous system, from the very access of the disease, without any appreciable reaction during the whole course—the early urgency of the symptoms—the constant liability to coldness of the extremities, and numbness of the skin—its degree of insusceptibility to the action of long rubbing—its anxiety and hypochondriacal symptoms, and death-like sinking in the epigastrium—the craving of hot liquids—the alternation of extreme torpor and excessive irritability of the stomach—the great liability to sudden and irremediable sinking—the respiration resembling that of animals in which the Par Vagum has been divided—the immediate exhaustion produced by an erect position—the delirium resembling intoxication, (when neither Alcohol, Opium, nor any other medicine had been used)—the extreme variability and irregularity of pulse, particularly its occasional deceptive fulness and force, when the patient is in the most alarming state of exhaustion—the very rapid progress of the disease—the impurity, at least, with which the most extraordinary doses of Opium were borne, (which must be acknowledged by all, from the unparalleled success of the practice, whatever may be realized of its necessity and advantage by those who did not watch the whole progress of the cases. [Note 26.]—The injurious effects of free evacuations, whether spontaneous or artificed, the great necessity of guard in their administration, in the early stage of the disease, when, from neglect or bad management, the patient had once sunk down at a critical period, though perhaps the same degree of exhaustion might not have been so alarming at the crisis of any other ordinary fever, and though individual symptoms might be capable of material palliation—the absence of febrile smell, and indeed, of any uncommon feature of the excoriation—all mark the identity of this peculiar distress with the Hartford Spotted-Fever of 1809, and execute its diversity from common Typhus or Nervous-Fever.

From these considerations, it is believed, no one will hesitate to admit that this disease, at least as it respects the severest and most sudden cases, was genuine Spotted-Fever, and that it was essentially different from common Typhus. Indeed, the two diseases differ so much, especially during several of the first days, that the best treatment of common Nervous-fever, would not prove fatal in every severe case of Spotted-Fever.

With the utmost confidence it is asserted, that by the experienced, they might always be discriminated, and therefore should never, at this late day, be mistaken, or confounded together.

OSTEO-SARCOMA.

BY WILLIAM CUMMINS, M. D. GLASGOW.

Osteo-Sarcoma is a disease which, as yet, is but ill defined, and which has served as a general receptacle for various cases of ordinary and anomalous cases. Mr. Samuel Cunner, and the authors of the "Dict. des Sciences Med. have presented us with very meagre articles under the head of osteo-sarcoma. So undefined, indeed, are the ideas of the author of the Surgical Dictionary on this subject, that he has referred, under that title, to a case of exostosis of the clavicle, and to one of fungus of the antrum.

With the view of removing some portion of the obscurity in which this subject is at present involved, the case here presented, should be limited to a degeneration and morbid growth of the lining membranes of the longitudinal canals or cancelli of bones, accompanied, in all cases, by absorption of the solid osseous sub-
The disease is therefore essentially one of destruction of the affected bone, which is produced partly by the pressure of the enlarging tumor, and partly by the division of the fluids circulating within the bone to the support of this morbid growth. The contents of the osteo-sarcomatous tumor are of different descriptions, not infrequently having the texture and color of an absorbent gland, sometimes presenting the appearance of a bloody-colored fungus, and at other times resembling old cheese or cerebral matter. They have been observed also occasionally to have been converted almost wholly into fluid resembling thick potato soup. This disease is generally of slow progress; and in its commencement the symptoms cannot be readily distinguished from those of chronic rheumatism, or from syphilitic pains. After some time, a tumor is perceived in the affected bone, at first firm and resisting, but afterwards becoming softer, sometimes fluctuating, and in certain cases communicating to the hand a distinct pulsation, synchronous with that of the artery of the limb, and capable of being interrupted by compressing the tumor. After a longer or shorter interval, the constitution of the patient becomes affected, hectic fever, colliquative perspirations, and diarrhoea make their appearance, and at length destroy life. Towards the close of the illness, fracture of the bone at the affected part very commonly takes place on some slight exertion, aggravating, in a remarkable manner, the general distresses of the patient, but rather relieving than increasing the distressing pain in the bone.

The following is the history of a case of osteo-sarcoma which I had under my care some years ago. Early in the month of June, I was requested to see a gentleman aged about sixty, on account of a supposed rheumatic affection of above three months’ standing. He complained of severe pains in the limbs and through the vesicles, with lameness and a feeling of debility. His countenance was a sallow, and somewhat leaden color. Pulse strong and regular, appetites good, bowels inclined to constipation. Midway between these extremes was somewhat feverish; and on the middle of the right thigh, was a tumor about two inches in length, and one in breadth, apparently occasioned by a prominence of the periosteum. Immediately under the head of the left tibia, on the mesial side of the tubercle, was a similar tumor, equally fixed and deep-seated, but smaller in size. I prescribed the decoction of saracaparilia, and applied repeated blisters to the tumors; and after some continuance of this mode of treatment, his condition appeared on the whole rather improved. But about the middle of July, the disease certainly did not show any symptoms of decided amendment, and the patient was anxious to try what benefit was to be derived from change of air, I agreed that he should proceed to the seacoast for this purpose, as well as with the intention that he should make use of the warm sea-water bath. I directed, at the same time, that the saracaparilia should be persevered in for a fortnight longer. In the end of the month, having learned that he had been lost ground, I consented that he should begin a mild alterative course of mercury. Under this, and the warm sea-water bath, he continued gradually to become worse until the 12th of August, when, in stepping into bed, he slipped his foot and fractured his right thigh in the situation of the tumor. When I saw him, three days after this accident, he was in a very miserable and reduced state. Pulse frequent and feeble; skin bedewed with clammy perspiration; nights sleepless; countenance sunk and haggard. The fractured limb was lying apparently easy, in the half bent position. The tumor on the opposite tibia had increased considerably in size, was much softer and somewhat discolored, and pulsated very distinctly. No preternatural motion or thrilling was perceptible in the ham, although closely examined. In that state, temporary relief was obtained from hyoscyamus, black diet, and aromatic sulphuric acid; and life was prolonged, under great suffering and gradually increasing debility, until the beginning of October, when the patient sank under the accumulated load of his distresses.

The body was inspected by the practitioner, under whose immediate care the patient had placed himself after leaving Glasgow; and to him I am indebted for the substance of the following account. One half of the right thigh-bone, in a state of disease, which, it is presumed, from the portion in my possession, was merely the change produced by extensive absorption; and at the fractured part, only fragments of the diseased bone remained. A large tumor attached to the bone, and distinctly originating from the membrane of the medullary cavity, was found in that part which corresponded to the external swelling. The texture of the morbid growth resembled very much that of an absorbent gland; and when cut into, it gave nearly the same resistance to the scalpel as liver or kidney. Its color was greyish or ash brown, and the muscles in the neighborhood were flabby and dark-colored. The tumor on the tibia seemed, like that just described, to arise from the interior of the bone, which was destroyed through nearly two-thirds of its thickness. Its texture was rather firmer than that of the tumor on the thigh, but otherwise similar; and on cutting into it, a quantity of dark-colored blood escaped. Nothing, however, in the least resembling aneurism could be detected. On corresponding with the gentleman who made the dissection, I found myself disposed to admit, that the tumor might have received its pulsation from the popliteal artery, in consequence of the originally interposed bone having been removed by the progress of the disease.—Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ.

HEALTH OF SEPTEMBER.

Since making our last monthly report, there has been a distressing reverse in the health of the inhabitants of many parts of our country. Fever, cholera, and dysentery, have spread their pestilential influences through every district, and broken with uninterrant force the ties of family, kindred and friends. Infants and the aged have suffered most from the diseases of this season—as through the dearest and most defenceless members of the community are the most likely to fall victims to the ravages of death. It is certain that much may be done by a judicious attention to clothing, exercise and diet, to defend weak constitutions, and fortify strong ones, against the attacks of disease. But there is such a thing as too much, or a mistaken kindness; mothers are too apt to be eternally dosing, and forcing down the throats of their children a jargon of nostrums and nursery specific, which, by interpreting the natural functions of the digestive organs, disturbing the healthy circulation of the blood, and emaciating the whole system, are certain, if any thing can do it, to kindle up the flame of a fever, or whatever disease the habit is most predisposed to take, instead of extinguishing it. Let mothers and nurses at once renounce this pernicious custom of blindly experimenting with the health of their children, which is nothing less than tampering with machines, the organization of which they are entirely ignorant. Medicines, to do good in any case, must be stronger than the cause of the disease which they are intended to counteract. If employed in a manner to be efficient, and without a clear understanding of the object to be attained, they will be as likely to confirm and strengthen the disease, as to remove it. If, as in general, the case for this purpose such articles only are made use of, and in such quantities, as cannot do any hurt if they do no good, nothing can be gained, and the time will be lost in worse than useless delay, which might have otherwise been employed in overcoming incipient disease, and rescuing from premature death an object of the fondest hope and of the utmost solicitude.

The importance of warm clothing, both in the prevention and cure of bowel complaints, is too obvious to require much said on the subject. We will only observe, therefore, that warmth should be the first object; for if a person only wears his ordinary clothing, he will receive comparatively little benefit from the use of any other means. A waistcoat of flannel or fleecy bosomy ought always to be worn next the skin when there is the least appearance of disorder of the bowels, and should be laid aside with the greatest caution. The bowels should be kept lax, and free from whatever has a tendency to create irritation and griping. If laudanum is necessary, one half of the dose for this purpose than camphor or most other purgatives. In the beginning of bowel complaints, particularly dysentery, it is improper to employ either opiates or astringents; but in the advanced stage of diseases of this description, when the patient's strength is exhausted by frequent returns of the complaint, proceeding rather from a relaxed state of the bowels, than from an active stage of the disease, a judicious use of these remedies will be proper and beneficial, taking care to obviate constiveness, and evacuate the contents of the intestines from time to time, by administering some gentle laxative. A few grains of rhubarb at this time is the best. Every sort of food which readily tends to putrefaction, also all kinds of fermented or spirituous liquors, ought carefully to be avoided throughout the whole course of this class of disorders.

RENDERING CHILDREN HARDY.

Endeavour to harden the body, but without resorting to any violent means. A child is constitutionally weak and irritable to a high degree; hence we should endeavour to strengthen and diminish this irritability, in order to procure it the greatest happiness of life, a firm body, which may resist all the influence of air and weather. Such management is highly advantageous, as it will enable children, when adults, to support every species of fatigue and hardship.

The plan of hardening children may, however, be easily carried to excess. An extravagant attempt to strengthen youth, deprives them of their natural susceptibility of excitement, renders them insensible, and produces many bad effects; they acquire only a temporary energy, which decreases as they advance in years, and is attend-
ed with an early loss of their premature vigor. Parents, therefore, cannot be too seriously cautioned against such mischievous experiments. Among the practices alluded to, are included the cold bath and violent bodily exercise; both of which are often carried to extremes. People do not reflect, that the exercise of the body as well as the mental powers, ought not to be inordinate.

All attempts to render children handy, must, therefore, be made by gradual steps. Nature admits of no sudden transitions. For instance, infants should by imperceptible degrees be inured to the cool, and then to the cold bath; at the same time, attention must be paid to their previous management. If they have hitherto been accustomed to an effeminating treatment, and should suddenly be subjected to an opposite extreme, such a change would be attended with danger. When children have once been accustomed to a hardly system of education, such a plan must be strictly adhered to.

VARIETIES.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—The lectures at this school will continue on Tuesday, the day of November next, to continue until the last of March, and delivered as follows:—Anat. Dr. Hallock—Surge. Dr. Ramsay—last, and Pract. of Med. Dr. Dick—Obstetric, Dr. Holbrook—Womens and Childrens, Dr. Prioleau.—Mat. Med. Dr. Med.—Chem. and Pharm. Dr. Ravelin.—Nat. Hist. and Bot. by S. Elliott, L. L. D. The course of instruction in the history, treatment, and formation of the human body, at this school affords, important and peculiar advantages to persons who wish to qualify themselves for the practice of medicine in the southern states. Students at this school can attend the clinical lectures in the wards of the hospital, and will have opportunities to become acquainted with the diseases of the negro and mulatto races, their marked peculiarities of temperament, habit and constitution. Here are also superior opportunities for the acquisition of anatomical knowledge. The impediments which exist with us to the prosecution of this important part of our profession, and which seem likely to be increased, are not here the difficulties paid to the students. Subjects being procured from among the colored population in sufficient numbers for every purpose, without offending any individual in the community, public feeling being far inferior to that of the whites, to the advancement of the science of anatomy.

PLAGUE AND YELLOW FEVER.—The Paris Faculty of Medicine held an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday under the presidency of Baron Portal, for the purpose of receiving a letter from the Minister of the Interior, making known the different opinions which divide physicians upon the question whether the plague and yellow fever is or are contagious. His Excellence at the same time laid before the Faculty letters from Drs. Lass, Coze, and Lasserre, offering to shut themselves up in the last stages of the disease, and to die in the arms of the persons who have died of the plague or the yellow fever. A commission, consisting of six physicians, four surgeons, and two apothecaries, was appointed to examine the subject. Baron Portal comminucated a letter from the Academy of Medicine at Marselles, announcing that three young physicians of that place were willing to share the peril of the doctors above mentioned, and were prepared to sustain the matter whatever be the fate of the experiment. The report will be made at the next meeting of the Academy.

REMARKABLE PRESERVATION.—A most extraordinary instance of preservation was discovered a few days since, in repairing some of the vaults of St. Mary’s church in this city. On opening a lead coffin, wherein were deposited, 95 years ago, the remains of the Rev. Mr. Hero, rector of the parish, the body was found as perfect as when first deposited in the tomb, the flesh yielding to the touch, and recovering its smoothness when the fingers were removed; and the shroud covering the corpse, were as white and uninjured, as if they had just come from a draper’s shop.—Plymouth (Eng.) Gaz.

TEST OF VACCINATION.—When a person has been vaccinated on one arm, the Surgeon should vaccinate the other arm, with matter taken from the first. If the first vaccination has been perfect, the pusules on both arms will be of the same size; if not so, the pusules will be unequal; and if this does not take place, the system has not been properly erected, and the vaccination ought to be repeated. This simple test, first brought into notice by Dr. Bruce, of Edinburgh, ought never to be neglected.

THE OLFACTORY NERVE.—M. Magendie has lately reported to the Academy a pathological fact, in confering with the human spirit; the absence of the organ of smell. Becharl had a man under his care in the Hospital de l’Italie, in whom on dissection the anterior portion of the brain and olfactory nerves were found almost destroyed by ulceration, but who at the time, felt little in his sense of smell. He took snuff, and was capable of distinguishing its various qualities.

VACCINATION.—The undenominated devotees of his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others. Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for every period of time they may agree for, at not less than six dollars per ounce payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, Private Tickets at 10 dollars each, but for the children of the holder of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and Public Tickets at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the State, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

This privilege is extended to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to the respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid. Vaccine Institution, 35 Charles St.}

JAMES SMITH.

Baltimore, 15th Sept. 1829.

(67) The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr. Smith, and against his first intendment, but discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any expense. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr. Smith, 3d February, 1824, to Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a full account is given in the Committee of Commerce, to whom it was referred. This report elucidates Dr Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Persons procuring subscriptions for the Medical Intelligence, will be allowed 25 cents for each responsible
OBSERVATIONS.

NOTES.

To Dr. M'Ken's Essay on Typhus-Sinoplems.

(See page 78.)

1. In every malignant epidemic, a few instances are liable to occur, in which the vital principle is so immediately extinguished that the patient passes from a normal state before a physician can be called. A few similar cases were seen in former years, and one or two in 1824. Such apparently hopeless cases, however, should not be forsaken, as the powers of life sometimes rally, after all hope of life has ceased for hours. If patients have been previously well supported, they will usually revive after an apparently deadly coma has continued for a great length of time.

2. Haemorrhage from the lungs, or rather the free discharge of a frothy matter of a pink color, or of a mucus tinged with blood, without pain, is one of the most fatal symptoms that can occur; yet it may be the last, and only cause of alarm to the by-standers.

3. The author has seen carbuncles two or three inches in diameter, in the latter stages of this disease, and also known the carbuncle to be the earliest symptom that was noticed. Swelling of the parotid glands, phlyctenm, vesicles, petechia, ecchymoses, etc. occasionally occur. A few cases began with extreme pain and passive inflammation in the extremities. Petechial spots are almost the only conceivable external affection that is not occasionally met with in these epidemics. It is quite unfortunate that a single symptom, (petechia,) and one too, which is wanting in a great majority of the cases, should have been seized upon, to give the odious and deceptive name of Spotted-fever, as that name has been applied by European writers, to a very different kind of fever. Indeed, petechial may appear in diseases of a very different character; and often in porphyra-haemorrhagica, sea-scurvy, and other chronic complaints which are attended with fever. Small vesicular eruptions, attended with troublesome itching, have been very common in all our late epidemics.

4. Nothing is more fallacious than the statements of nurses concerning heat. The true standard, is that of a healthy person lying comfortably in bed. Those who are about the sick, and interrupted in their sleep, have often cold hands which are very sensible to the least change, or even to no change of temperature in the patient. The same remarks will often apply to the hands of the physician. In what is called stinging heat, the real temperature is perhaps most frequently below the healthy standard. Transient flushes of heat with a flushed countenance, are, however, common in some of these epidemics.

5. In 1824, the patients were very frequently inclined to sweating two or three times every twenty-four hours. Cold sweats during a paroxysm of sinking are not a rare occurrence.

6. In some of the most deadly forms of this disease, there is very little apparent derangement of the functions of the skin, tongue, alimentary canal, or pulse, except during the daily paroxysms of sinking.

7. The distinction between extreme irritability and extreme torpor, is well illustrated in Cynicme, when in some cases, Capsicum is the best, and the most grateful topical application; in others, it seems to set the throat on fire. Strychnia, excited by Cantharides, will occasionally very much increase irritability, though in a few cases, it is a very valuable counteraction.

8. It is the easiest thing imaginable to convert almost any fever of the nervous type, which is not so low as to sink immediately under evacuations, into a bilious fever, with irritable stomach, tympanitic abdomen, diarrhea, or haemorrhage, by indiscriminate emetics and cathartics. Indeed, the bilious fevers of this region, which are seen at the present day, are almost universally fictitious, being the obvious result of hyperemesis or hypercatarrh, in originally nervous fevers, or of mild spotted-fever.

9. Within the last two years, three or four cases have been met with, in which they had occurred on the eastern continent, would unquestionably have been considered as genuine specimens of the Spasmodic-Cholera of India. They all recovered under the use of Opium, the hot bath, and external stimulants.

10. In a few cases, there was a slight parotid, which, with the effluvia from blisters, sinapisms, etc. might possibly be mistaken for the ordinary febrile smell; but generally, the air appeared to be completely free from the least unpleasant taint.

11. Exceptions to the danger of an erect posture sometimes occur, though they are very few in this disease; but in one case, the patient could not lie down, without feeling as if his feet were in the air, and his body hanging from them with his head downwards. He was very speedily relieved by shaving his head and blistering it freely.

12. The symptom of morbid clearness of intellect, is perhaps more dangerous than delirium. It was very common in the fever of 1824, and continued till nearly the last of several fatal cases.

13. It was curious to see how completely strangers were liable to be deceived by the pulse. In many of the worst cases, except during the paroxysms of sinking, or when the patient was dying, in some instances, both of these states, judging from this symptom alone, no disease would be inferred to exist. Counselors, unless they stay by the patient twenty-four hours, almost always judge incorrectly of the danger. Though a bad state of the skin, pulse, and tongue, are always unfavorable, yet it cannot be too often enforced, that a state of these functions, nearly natural, often exists in the worst cases of the epidemic.

14. It would be easy to state a number of cases which sunk from bleeding, when the disease first appeared in this State, and was mistaken for active phrenitis. They are facts of universal notoriety. The author has known, repeatedly of venesection in the milder forms of these epidemics; but it not only produced paroxysms of sinking, but rendered the cases obstinate and protracted. In every severe case, free bleeding, as also free vomiting and purging, is almost certain death.

15. The symptoms of tumid abdomen and haemorrhage were more common in 1824. But it must be recollected that free purging was more common, as the cases were not generally so immediately sinking in the first stage. Tumid abdomen in fevers, most probably, is always caused by excessive purging, or spontaneous diarrhoea, not seasonably checked.

16. It is necessary to make further comment upon the two kinds of subsidentia, or sinking, or Embolism, as it is called by the French, as they are but little understood, and can never be realized by those who have not witnessed the disease, in its severest form. These symptoms are so common, as to be properly reckoned among the diagnostics of ordinary cases. These symptoms have been the cause of much of the alarm, and much of the reproach, that have prevailed, concerning what is usually called the stimulating practice. The objections have almost uniformly come from those who have had little or no experience of the disease in its worst and most sinking varieties. In the paroxysms of ordinary subsidentia, the patient is sure to find relief by an efficient use of aromatic drinks, essential oils, Alcohol, Ether, or Opium, assisted by external stimulants; and in the most urgent cases, there is no other mode of relief. The patient must use its return to any alarming degree. In moderate cases, those fits of sinking when left to themselves, do not at first destroy life, but each succeeding one reduces the vital powers so much, that a paroxysm of critical sinking soon supervenes, that instantly jeopardizes life. When this critical sinking does occur, the most decided practice is necessary to preserve instant death; and in defiance of every exertion, in the majority of cases, it is believed, it finally proves fatal. Life may usually be prolonged for hours, and sometimes days and weeks, but the system has received such a shock, that ultimate recovery is rarely to be expected. However, it is always our duty to support the patient as long as possible; and we succeed often enough in producing a new secretion of vital power, to prove that desperate cases should never be neglected, and at the same time, to demonstrate the salutary effects of medicine in palliating, even when it cannot remove the disease. Those who are ig-
norant of the extreme malignity of the disease, in general attribute death in those cases to medic-
ification. If a physician suffers his patient to die in one of these paroxysms, he loses no reputa-
tion; but if with the most exquisite skill and judgment, he prolongs life for days or weeks, and the case finally fails, he is almost sure of being consigned for his practice. When the spastic paroxysms of this fever are so greatly mortal, and the patient is usually said to die of a fit of apoplexy, of angina-pectoris, of hydro-
thorax, of organic sequestration of the heart, or of some such fatal disease. He does often die, be-
fore sufficient reaction is produced to show that he labored under a febrile disease. No fever requires greater nicety in adapting the treat-
ment to the symptoms of individual cases than this, as some of them are very slight, and require only moderate practice. The charge of indis-
criminate practice is utterly groundless, and the general inference that it is attempted to be drawn
from particular cases, is entirely unwarranted.

From a conversation of a few minutes with any intelligent physician, it is easy to ascertain, whet-
ther he has ever witnessed the whole progress of a very malignant epidemic. If he has not, or has only superficially viewed sporadic cases, or if he has only seen the disease in its mildest form, or in the intervals of the paroxysms of sinking, all his analogies will fail him. How a patient can sink irretrievably, sometimes on the first day of his disease, from a single emetic, ca-
thartic, venesection, or enema, or even a draught of cold water, when at the same time, he
might probably have been restored under proper treatment, is utterly incomprehensible, to such as have not repeatedly witnessed their
effects. And on the other hand, it is equally mysterious, how doses of medicine, that in ordinary
cases might endanger life, may be given with the utmost safety, and the most prominent advantage.
It is equally incredible, that some cases may be trusted a week without the bowels being moved, and not only so, but that the slightest ecchymosis, if it could be made to oper-
ate, might destroy life. The fact that coma, and other typhoid affections of the brain, are
more surely relieved by Opium than any other remedy, is equally incomprehensible. How-
ever, no facts in medicine are better known by the truly experienced, or are supported by more
substantial testimony.

17. Several cases occurred in 1824, that coun-
terfeited delirium-tremens.

18. In 1824, two women were delivered, one of them of a dead child, during a severe attack of
this disease, the other of twins, which living children were believed to have survived. Several gravid w-
omen passed through the disease, in both seasons, without its producing abortion. Several infants,
of a few weeks old, have had Sinking-typhus, within the last two years.

19. In some few cases under peculiar circum-
crances, where torpor prevailed, emetics of Zinc and Ipecacuanha, in skilful hands, have success-
fully roused the system; but then it often re-
quires a draam of each to operate. Small doses are worse than useless. Emetics combined with
Calomel, have sometimes a favorable effect in the beginning of mild cases, but they require extreme caution in any case of sinking-fever.
The epidemics of different years vary much, as respects the safety of emetics, and much de-
pend on the preponderance of irritability or torpor; and much, whether the attack is insid-
ious or sudden. In sudden and violent cases, emetics and cathartics, at first, are utterly inad-
imissible.

(MR. COX ON THE PECULIAR SPECIES OF CON-
VULSION IN CHILDREN.)

I am happy to find that the peculiar species of convulsion, described by the late Dr John Clarke, has lately occupied the attention of the profes-
sion, as, from circumstances within my own knowledge, I am inclined to think it is a disease of the infantile state which has been
very much overlooked. With respect to the name of this disease, perhaps it may need to leave it as Dr Clarke has designated it; if,
however, another name must be substituted, I should prefer calling it cerebral group.

The term spasmocid croup has been strongly objected to, and, perhaps, with great propriety, inasmuch as it tends to confound it with cyancolic
tranceals, from which it differs entirely in its nature.

With regard to the seat of the disease, it cer-
tainly is not a matter of such little importance as to be slightly passed over. It is very much to be regrettled that the diseases of children are
so frequently looked at through a paraellelism para-
digm, for as surely as this is the case will the disease be referred to this or that particular cause; and that all diseases, or nearly all, should be
referred to one cause, is certainly laying down, in theory, what can never be found in practice, and is the means of introducing an em-
pirical mode of treating a disease, which cannot be applicable to its various forms. Thus teeth-
ing, worms, gastric derangement, and some others,
in their turn, according as they may have the ascendency, are compelled to be the cause of
every disease to which a child is liable.—
These remarks are perfectly applicable to the
disease in question. Cases of this disease have
come under my notice where there has not been
one symptom of gastric derangement—the
belly being free from pain, and the motions per-
fectly healthy.* On the other hand, I have seen
the disease without any symptom of cerebral af-
fection, but with considerable derangement of
the abdominal secretions, and sometimes extreme
pain in the belly. The disease appears to me
to consist of a convulsive action of the trach-
eses, sometimes, but not always, attended with a con-
spusive action of other parts of the body, as the
face, hands, or feet. This morbid action I con-
sider as arising from cerebral irritation, which
may be either symptomatic or idiopathic.

When it is unattended by symptoms of excite-
ment of the brain, I suppose the diseased action to be transmitted through the medium of this or-
gan, without actual inflammation existing in it.
I have known it occur, in three instances, either
preceded or followed by mesenteric disease.

In the three in which I have known it prove fatal, all the children died in a fit which came on un-
expectedly. In one of these cases, although the
stools had been black, brown, green, and sloky,
no structural disease in the abdomen could be
detected on a careful dissection; the head was not examined. In another case, the only ap-
ppearance of disease was ulceration of the in-
ternal and middle coats of the small intestines: the
head was not examined. I was not present at
either of these examinations. Another case was
attended with considerable enlargement of the
head, and the usual symptoms of chronic hydro-
cephalus; when I last saw this child, I consid-
ered it probably looked through a cranial lac-

With respect to the treatment, when it ap-
pears to arise from idiopathic cerebral excite-
ment, especially if it be attended with general
couvlusions, we should lose no time in the ap-
lication of leeches to the temples, and blisters
behind the ears. I have put this mode of treat-
ment to the test, by adopting it, and adminis-
tering no other medicine than the common saline
mixture, and with perfect success.*

Where abdominal irritation appears to be the
cause, unattended by any symptoms of disease in
the head, we may expect one or other of the fol-
lowing symptoms: either a considerable enlarge-
ment of the abdominal memhrane, or an exten-
sively painful state of the belly, with violent fits of
crying and drawing of the legs towards the ab-
domen, and sometimes the passing of a consider-
able quantity of wind per anum, followed by im-
mediate relief.
The secretions of the liver and mucus mem-
brane of the intestines being disturbed, the plan I have found most successful is a moderate dose of hyd. sub. mur. and pulv. rhei one morning, and ol. ricini the next, persevered in for some time, giving also twice a day sodr
carb., pulv. rhei. and in alcool. When this is usu-
ally relieved by the warm-bath, and a combination of magnes.
carb., pulv. rhei. and aqua menth. The diet a child, under these circumstances, is of consid-
erable importance; the breast is by far the best
mode of nourishment, and to it the child should be confined, if practicable. If the gums be full,
they ought, by all means, to be lanced. The combinaion of abdominal and cerebral affection is,
perhaps, most frequently the case in this dis-

* I cannot omit this opportunity of entering any pro-
test against the misplaced timidity with respect to
the application of leeches to children. It is said young
children cannot bear active or repeated depletion, and
that, if used at all, they should be used in such a manner,
that they be not attended by symptoms of excite-
m. I have known this plan to be attended with no relief, and
I have been under the necessity of asserting it will have no
effect on those who have reared a family will bear testimony to the extra-
ordinary powers of recovery which children possess. It is
also said that repeated application of leeches re-
produces the disease; this is not my experience. I have
seen this plan to be attended with no relief, and
I have been under the necessity of asserting it will have no

effect on those who have reared a family will bear testimony to the extra-
ordinary powers of recovery which children possess. It is
also said that repeated application of leeches re
produces the disease; this is not my experience. I have
seen this plan to be attended with no relief, and
I have been under the necessity of asserting it will have no

end, when it is so, we should not suppose that mere attention to the abdominal functions will remove the complaint—it will not do so. I recollect, in a case of this description, a friend of mine, who had frequently differed with me in opinion as to the propriety of repeatedly bleeding children, cautioned me against the application of leeches and blisters: it was considered to be a case beyond recovery, there being, to all appearance, effusion in the ventricles. The child was about a year and a half old; and although much emaciated, I applied two leeches to the temple, and rubbed the ung. lyytus behind the ears: the symptoms were somewhat relieved. The leeches were repeated a second and third time. The child perfectly recovered; and on being shown to the gentleman alluded to, he was much surprised. In the course of the disease, the lungs sometimes become the seat of inflammation, requiring the application of leeches to the chest. I shall conclude with the following cases of this disease.

(Cases in our next No.)

OCTOBER.

This is the last month of the season in which we can expect to enjoy that nice balance of agreeable warmth and bracing coolness of autumn, which is so grateful to our feelings after the effeminating influence of a scorching summer. To invalids and valetudinarians who dress as though they think that clothes were made for screens rather than to keep their bodies warm, we have nothing to say until they entirely lay aside their cobweb habits of silk and gave, and make use of something more substantial to shield themselves against the inclemency of the approaching season. Besides the scanty, light, and flimsy attire of fashionable females of the present day, as greatly favoring the class of diseases from which they mostly suffer, may be reckoned the warmth and closeness of the apartments which are occupied by the opulent, together with the great and sudden changes of temperature, to the full effects of which, from the lightness of their dress, they are imprudently and needlessly exposed. In the winter, when persons leave such apartments to go into the open air, the change of temperature which they experience, often amounts to twenty-five or thirty degrees.

The passages to the lungs, in consequence of being exposed to such a transition from hot to cold, are likely to fall into torpor, from the stream of cold air that must pass through them for the purpose of respiration; and when they re-enter their apartments, heated to the meridian temperature of the torrid zone, the blood rushes with violence into the vessels previously rendered torpid by the cold, and, upon the same principle that one feels pain in his hands on coming to the fire, after being exposed to the cold, they feel a sensation of uneasiness and heat about the throat: this local inflammation spreads, and they experience all the symptoms usually attendant on a recent catarh.

It is not our business to dictate the kind, or fashion of the garments most suitable to secure the thousand avenues of a weak constitution against the attacks of disease; but we strongly recommend to those who are in good health, if they would remain so, and to those who are feeble, if they would not alter for the worse, to adapt their clothing more to the season and their own comfort, and less to the folly of fashion, the propagation of disease, and the ruin of their constitution, than is generally customary with the fashionable part of the community.

Excep warm clothes, nothing is more conducive to bodily health, activity and cheerfulness of the mind, than regular and seasonable exercise. Taken in a suitable degree and at proper times, it increases the power of digestion, quickens and renders clear the action of the mind, and preserves that just balance between the mental and physical powers which is necessary to health, strength and happiness. While we thus enjoin upon all to cultivate habits of free and regular exercise, we would caution those of fragile or impaired constitutions against using it so as to occasion a great degree of heat or fatigue. To do good, it must be regular, daily, and perseveringly made use of, so as to keep up insensible perspiration. It is to the interruption of this process, rendered certain by the flimsy wardrobe in which Fashion requires those who are devoted to her service always to appear, that we trace the origin of those fatal diseases which are constantly making such cruel ravages among those who contribute most to the life and ornament of social and domestic intercourse. How long will the votaries of this health-destroying system remain passive under the absurd and arbitrary laws of fashion? Must the delicate fabric of the female constitution be eternally sacrificed upon this altar of folly and tyrant custom? Both humanity and affection declare with sorrow that the names are already too numerous of those who have fallen victims to the deadly influence of that insidious class of diseases, which preys with the most unpardonable voracity upon the fairest and dearest part of nature's work.

FOOD.

During sleep, we remain several hours without food and animals that are in a state of torpor, for several months require no nourishment. Sedentary persons therefore, should be particularly cautious in the quantity and nature of the aliment which they receive.—Their food should be of a limited quantity, and of a laxative nature; but not too much confined to the vegetal kingdom, as such persons are subject to flatulency. The human constitution is adapted to variety; and the principle it possesses called vis medicatrix naturae, becomes weak from want of exertion. Though the whole-some laws of temperance should always be adhered to, and never allowed to alternate with the folly of excess; yet, a little freedom in the good things of this life may be occasionally indulged in. Those who feel immediately the bad effects of excess, seldom ultimately suffer much from this cause: but he who boasts of never being sick or sorry after it, finds at an early period that his constitution requires some intervals of rest. The practice frequently recommended by our good aunts and grandmothers, to eat little and often, is highly injurious except in certain diseases; for food, to be digested, must be retained in the stomach, and unless this is in some measure filled, the contents soon pass off.

Many instances of entire and long continued abstinence are recorded; but generally in persons whose state resembled that of torpid animals. There are instances of those who have successfully employed abstinence for the cure of painful and dangerous diseases; but they have generally seemed to feel little desire for food, and after having passed through the most difficult part of the experiment, appear to have suffered but little inconvenience from the absence of all nourishment.

For the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

Since the close of the last term of lectures, some changes have occurred in the medical department of this Institution, which must, in some part, affect its future prosperity. The resignation of Professor Brown, long known to the medical and scientific world as a gentleman of sound mind and extensive learning, of the chair of the Theory and Practice of Physic, created a vacancy which it required some care and judgment to fill to advantage. Professor Drake, who, to say the least of him, possesses a grasp and acumen of intellect equal to any physician in the West, has succeeded to this vacancy, and Charles W. Short, M. D. of Hopkinsville (Ky.), has been elected to the chair of Materia Medica and Medical Botany.

This appointment appears highly judicious, and there is every reason to believe will prove fortunate. Dr Short is a man of great professional character in that part of Kentucky in which he has resided, and is endowed with the qualifications, native and acquired, requisite to distinction and extensive usefulness. He possesses an intellect, if not really elevated, at least very highly respectable, a well directed education, literary and abdominal, as well as professional, adapted to the labors of botany, with no inconsiderable knowledge of the sciences, united to a fine talent for delineation and coloring. Added to all these, he is industrious, persevering, and emulous to excel. His moral qualities are those of the honest and upright man, and the honorable and high-minded gentleman.

So that although we have some cause to regret that a man so distinguished for his moral and intellectual worth, and one so well calculated to give popularity to a medical school as Dr Brown, should, at so early a period of his life, withdraw his services from our Western Temple of Science, yet I have every confidence that the high character to which he has contributed to elevate it, will be fully sustained by his successor.

L. P. Y.

TO PRESERVE THE EYE-SIGHT.

Never sit for any length of time in absolute gloom, or exposed to a blaze of light. The reason on which this rule is founded, proves the impropriety of going hastily from one extreme to the other, whether of darkness or of light, and shows us that a southern aspect is improper for those whose sight is weak and tender.

2. Avoid reading small print, and straining the eyes by looking at minute objects.

3. Do not read in the dusk, nor, if the eyes be disordered, by candle-light.

4. Do not permit the eyes to dwell on glaring objects, more particularly on first waking in the morning; the sun should not of course be suffered to shine in the room at that time, and a moderate quantity of light, only, should be admitted.

For the same reasons, the furniture, wall, and other objects of a bed-room, should not be altogether of a white or glaring color; indeed, those whose eyes are weak, would find considerable advantage in having green for the furniture, and prevailing color, of their bed-chambers. Nature confirms the propriety of this fact, for the light of the day comes on by slow degrees, and green is the universal color she presents to our eyes.
BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

VARIETIES.

The temperature of newly-killed Animals.—The temperature of the carcasses of newly-killed animals was, on sixteen different occasions, observed by Captain Lyon, during the severity of the Arctic winter of 1821-22, the greatest heat observed, that of a fox, was 108 3/4 degrees of Fahrenheit, when the surrounding air was 45 degrees; and the least heat 98 degrees, of a fox alo,

immediately after death; and —19 1-2 degrees, or 51 1-2 below freezing, the mean heat of the surrounding air when the experiments were made.

CONTAGION.—A petition from Dr McLean was presented to the British House of Lords on the 16th of June, relative to the quarantine laws, in which he de
dications the existence of pestilential contagion. He ob

fered that if the yolk of the egg is given to a sick

of the experience of the medical faculty. In a

plague hospital at Constantinople, in 1815, the result

to the sick and persons in health, was proof that the disease

implicated by being propagated by contact, arithme
tically, as nineteen to one.

During 140 years, in which the commerce with Turkia, was carried on by the late

Leeches may be from stiff pieces of ice, and easily

Influenza, as well as during the 104 years, in which quaran

tine has existed—in all 244 years—no disease has

occurred, in consequence of importation by ships, or

goods or persons into England.

THE LEACH.—There is no outlet to the intestinal

canal discovered in the common leech; mere transpor

tation is all that the parasite performs, through

and fixing on the surface of the body, whence it after

wards separates in small thraums.—If it be intended

that the leech shall draw a large quantity of blood, the

Leeches may be from stiff pieces of ice, and easily

re-animates, for a leech has no heart. If it had a

heart, it would not suck continually, even in revenge

for its foil being cut off; but speaking of hearts the

the spleen, and the circulation of the blood of the

leech is providentially formed.

REMEDY AGAINST THE BITE OF SERPENTS.—The

shrub guastra, a sort of climber, or plant willow, found in

the warm and temperate regions of Surtiva, about

45 deg. N. lat., not only possesses the property of neu

ralizing the venom of the rattle-snake, and other ser

pents, but the flesh is fat in the course of a few

minutes, but may be used as a prophylactic, and with

such efficacy, that some of the juice of the pounded

leaves, properly administered, will be a complete

antidote against the bite of these reptiles.

POISON.-—Conium maculatum, hyoscyamus, euphorbi

um, and hellebore root, are poisons to men; while

the first cytor's wholesome food to the cow and the

horse, though not great in size, is fatal to the goat, and

to the fourth to the quail. A quantity of opium or ome

nium that would destroy a man, may be taken with in

bufiness by a dog, which is more effectually dose

of the animal; the last will probably poison a

dog, and to various birds, while mountain parake

are fatal to parrots.

INCREASE OF HEIGHT AT RISING.—The cartilage

between the vertebrae of the backbone, in number

yield considerably to the pressure of the body in an

cnect posture, and expand themselves during the res

pose of the night; hence a persyn is considerab

in his resting posture. The difference

in some amount to so much as one inch; and re

傲 who have passed muster for soldiers in the morn

ing, have been rejected when re-measured, as at

above the standard.

SCARLET FEVER.—The German physicians pretend to have discovered a mode of inoculation to prevent scar

itation. They administer the extract of belladonna

ana the ten days; this produces red spots on the skin, burn

ning in the throat, &c. which are said to be a certain protection against the scarlet fever.

THE STOMACH.—The stomach is not sensible of the weight, taste, odor, &c. of the substances received, and

so far as it is concerned, we could not distinguish sugar from julep, or wine from medicine. It is, how

ever, the most important organ of the body, to itself, such as heat, thirst, satiety, squameness, &c.

POISONOUS PLANTS.—Five stamine, one pistil, one petal, and the fruit of the berry-kind, indicate poison

ous plants. The calyx double, glaze valved, three

stamina, two pistols, and naked seed, indicate plants of a farinacious quality, and fit for food.

CORPOREAL IDENTITY.—Some have considered a

change of corporeal identity to be effected every three,

others every seven years. Letters marked on the skin,

however, last during life; and there are some diseases

of which the constitution is only once susceptible.

DORMANT SEEDS.—Crops of white clover spring up

in appearance spontaneously, upon the application of

time to dry heaps or barren soils; and raps-waxthas

start up where fire-woods have been burned down,

though not a vestige of either could previously be dis

covered on the spot.

OSPIUM.—The name of Dr Allen Sprague, of

Charlestown, Mass. was inadvertently left out, in our

notice of those who were admitted to the degree of M.

D. at the late commencement of Dartmouth College.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending October 1; from the Health-Office Returns.

September 23.—Child of Jacob Hodge; Caroline

she, age, 3 mo. 2—.—Dr Percival Hall, 84; Bath Nance,

37. 25th.—James W. Eageney, 25; Lemuel Bald, 8 days;

Elizabeth Winslow, 66; George W. Hewett, 4 1-2; Eliza

Park, 36. 28th.—Mary Stevens Randall; Thomas Gano

Bowes; John Gibson, 29. 27th.—Norton Watson Welch, 3.

Abigail Hall, 83; Elizabeth Chadbourn, 4; Mary Gif

ford, 70; Lucy S. Robinson, 6 1-2. 29th.—Caroline Fur

21; Mary Lyford, 22; Albert Hayward, 7 mo; Mary Lo

wered, 84; Ephraim Safford, 80. 30th.—Martha Martin, 2;

Lucy Elliot, 37; Elizabeth Neat, 27; Abrahm Wild, 38; Jo

athan Valentine 35. October 1.—William F. Cobb, 5 months.

Stillborn, 2—Long Fever, 2—Inflammation on the

heart, 1—Asthma—Consumption—Dyspepsia—Dysentery—

Cholera—Rabies—Fever—Grippe—Hopping Cough—Fie

House of Indis

2—City Pea, 2.

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OBSERVATIONS.

NOTES

20. DR. MINER'S ESSAY ON TYPHUS-SINCOPLASIS.

(Continued from page 82.)

20. It is very certain that no instance of intoxication took place this year, from the use of Alcohol; but in former seasons, when any thing like it was supposed to occur, it is stated that the patient, was free from danger, and that all medicine might be soon abstracted. Of this the writer is merely informed by friends, and is somewhat skeptical; as he never saw intoxication or had the least reason to suspect it, in a fever, in a single instance. Such cases, therefore, are of very rare occurrence. The coma and delirium, though so often mistaken for intoxication, are symptoms of the disease, and when taken early, almost infallibly yield to Alcohol and Opium, in sufficient quantities. These symptoms are often mistaken by superficial observers, for intoxication, when no Alcohol, Opium, or stimulant of any kind, has been administered.

21. In so many fevers is it necessary to keep the bowels free, and in so many diseases is the weight of morbid action+ intense by means of a strong purge on the alimentary canal, it is no wonder that physicians, inexperienced in sinking diseases, with the greatest difficulty, can realize the inconvenience and hazard of active cathartics in this fever. In sinking cases, the effect is obvious and immediate; but it requires repeated trials, before a physician is ready to allow, that the bilious cases, which usually sink at the end of a week or fortnight, are facetious and of his own creation. Comment, en effet, n'ast pas vu que, dans plusieurs cas, non seulement la maladie a ete gueree, mais meme ses symptomes, et que l'anomalie des symptomes suit celle du traitement? The great hazard of free purging in this disease, only shows that it is a powerful agent when it is indicated in others, and is an argument for its use, when properly applied. Agents that are liable to do no harm, seldom do much good in medicine.

22. From being in the habit of commanding the urgent symptoms with Opium, to the extent of one, two, or three grains, every hour or half hour, during the severest paroxysms of sinking, and afterwards keeping its effects by one grain, every two or three hours, or even a grain or more every hour in extreme cases, the author has generally been able to dispense with the vast quantities of Alcohol, that are requisite upon a different plan; though now and then a case requires it, in as large a quantity as the stomach can retain. It is rare that more than a pound of diluted Alcohol is administered in twenty-four hours, and usually much less. When the stomach is very irritable, hot injections of Clavos, Cinnamon, or other aromatics, are frequently preferable to Alcohol. In a few instances, wine, porter, and bottled cider, are properly substituted for diluted Alcohol. Food regularly administered, such as a spoonful or two of broth or milk porridge, every hour or half hour, is necessary as medicine, in the lowest cases. Optimum by enema is often necessary to check diarrhea and other symptoms, but is generally a very poor substitute in urgent cases, unless there is uncontrollable vomiting, for the usual method of taking it in substance into the stomach. In many cases, large quantities of Alcohol, and even of Opium, might be dispensed with, if the patient had not been sunk by emetics, or cathartics, or Calomel, or other preparatory means, which might be highly proper in regular typhus or nervous-fever. The Ippecacuanha and neutral salt in Dover's Powder, are innocuous in all severe cases. Antimonials, and the common neutral salts, are out of the question. The truth is, the disease is so urgent in its violent form, that not only is the stage of reaction wanting, but also there is no necessity nor time for preparation. The exhaustion must be attacked immediately, by such means as will produce a new secretion of vital power. Some gentleman, upon having read the author's Essay upon the resolution of fevers, have made very great mistakes, in attempting to apply the treatment which is proper for regular nervous or putrid fevers only, to the disease now under consideration. If they had read the 6th, 10th, 11th, and 14th Essays with attention, they would have seen the outlines of principles and practice, in irregular fevers. To consider and treat this disease as an ordinary nervous-fever, is often a fatal mistake. As the second, or preparatory stage, [see the author's Essay on Stage, in Essays on Fevers,] for practical purposes, is entirely wanting in all malignant fevers of the nervous type, [see Essay on Typhus,] the preparatory process, so indispensable in most other diseases, is therefore, both unnecessary and pernicious. Except to obviate some peculiar symptom, emetics, in comparison with slow and moderate purging with Calomel, are very indifferent practice, even in nervous fever, and since blood-letting has been laid aside, antimonials are the most fatal of all kinds of treatment which are ever adopted in our late epidemic. They change the whole aspect of the disease, and make it a very different thing from what it would otherwise have been. Active cathartics, (and even any cathartic at all, for several of the first days, in the worst cases,) are scarcely less exceptionable. It must not be forgotten that this disease, very evidently is neither excited nor aggravated, by any thing that is naturally found in the alimentary canal in its usual quantity. There is less reason to suspect morbid matter in this, than in any other fever.

23. In some years, Oil of Turpentine internally, has been found serviceable in torpid cases; but it is usually rather unmanageable in those which are irritable. It may be given by enema, in doses of a dram, with a dram or two of laudanum, or with tincture of Spirit of Wine. Ether given by enema is proper in such cases.

24. Cinchona is peculiarly adapted to putrid fevers; it is of but little service in the purely nervous, if they have not been previously prepared by Calomel; and unless there are atheria, or symptoms of the alimentary canal that demand astringents, or unless the fever assumes the form of common Typhus, it is of no service in this disease, till the stage of convalescence. Where the stomach is not irritable, it may be given in immense doses, and suddenly abstracted without any perceptible effect. Sulphate of Quinine will not irritate from its bulk, but this is probably its only convenience. It is apt to produce a sense of constriction in the stomach, when given in large doses. No peculiar benefit from it, in preference to other preparations of Cinchona, except in irritable cases, has been seen in the acute stages of any disease, beside intermittents and remittents. The author is fully convinced that in these latter diseases, it is nearer a specific than any other medicine. Four or six grains a day, are serviceable in many cases of slow convalescence. But in most other cases except intermittents and remittents, the ordinary preparations of the Bark appear to be preferable, provided the stomach is not too irritable to retain them. It has probably had as repeated and fair trials in this town as any where, and this is the result of the experience here, concerning the expectoration of the Sulphate of Quinine. It would seem to be by no means a complete substitute for Cinchona, in ordinary cases, though from its concentration, and its being so easily taken in the form of a pill, it is a very important article.

25. Whether there is more irritability, or a greater disposition to diaphoresis, or whether the disease is more frequently insidious in its attack, or from whatever cause, it is certain that sweating is less efficacious now, than it formerly is said to have been. In certain circumstances it is very exhausting, and ought not to be promoted after the patient is thoroughly warmed. Sweating from external heat, and warm aromatic drinks, is all that should ever be attempted to be done, in cases of sudden attack, before medical aid is obtained. Vomiting or purging should never be hazarded before a physician is called, when such an epidemic prevails, as it usually produces such sinking as to aggravate the disease, and often endangers life.

26. Notwithstanding the extreme malignity, (by which term is meant, whether the fever is of the nervous or putrid type, a peculiar deficiency of vital power, and consequent impossibility to the creative action of ordinary medicines, in ordinary doses,) the practice in this disease was attended with a success, scarcely paralleled in the annals of medical history. For seven months, there was a constant succession of cases, nearly one half of which required very energetic treatment, and several of them the strongest practice which is ever admissible; and there were but six deaths among them. The public scarcely knew that there was an epidemic prevailing, the knowledge of it being mostly confined to the families and connexions of the sick, and they could not realize the extent and danger of the malady. There had been nothing very uncommon in the season, during the spring and summer, though it was perhaps rather more variable than usual; but from the 18th of September, to the latter part of December, the weather was remarkably cold. This cold...
dark, unpleasant weather of November, in which month six died, though it did not materially increase the number of cases, seemed to aggravate the symptoms, and to add to the severity of the disease. The extreme heat of summer, when the mercury of the thermometer is above 90 deg., is equally unfavorable. For a general rule, it is evident, that the variations of the barometer, thermometer, and hygrometer, have little or no effect upon our epidemics, except as to the exciting causes of individual cases, and the modification of such cases as already exist. Why the epidemic constitution is more inclined to Pneumonia, or to Cynanche, or to Spotted-Fever, or to common Typhus, in one year than in another, has never yet been ascertained. Meteorological tables, have hitherto thrown no light upon any thing but the exciting causes, except in insidious diseases. It is well known, that the same exciting cause produces various diseases, according to the epidemic constitution, or prevalent diathesis. It proves a remarkable thing, that every sudden change from warm to cool, invariably proved injurious to the sick, and vice versa, during the whole prevalence of this epidemic.

27. All typhoid diseases, at times, have a strong disposition to run into each other, and are often blended together. If therefore, any one is disposed to consider this epidemic as common Typhus, or Nervous-Fever, blended with Spotted-Fever, the author is not inclined to dispute concerning the name, provided it is not allowed to deceive with respect to the practice, and to induce the physicians to adopt a treatment, which might be proper for common Typhus. The epidemic constitution, or general diathesis, was decidedly that of Spotted-Fever, and every acute disease was tinged with it, and partook of the same common character. This sinking-fever, is certainly described, as an epidemic, by no systematic writer that is usually read in America. For aught that is known, it was never noticed till it appeared in Massachusetts, in 1809. The nearest approach to Spotted-Fever to be met with in any epidemic occurrence contained in our libraries, is in the statement of some cases in Johnson's Journal, No. 12, under the head of Puerperal Fever. Some of these cases, which are said to have affected men as well as women, were certainly very nearly allied to the Spotted-Fever of New-England, if not identically the same. The Cholera of India is perhaps a variety of this disease, supervening upon some derangement of the hepatic system. The author has elsewhere expressed his opinion, that the local affection of the stomach and intestines, in the cholera of New-England, is a typhoid inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and that it might properly be named Phrenitis-typhoides. He sees no reason to change his views. Signs of inflammation, it is true, have not always been detected by dissection; but from the authority of the great Baron Larrey, they cannot always be seen, even after the most obvious symptoms of active inflammation. Morbid Anatomy is usually very fallacious, in exhibiting the causes of disease and death. It only shows their effects with certainty. At the present time, every one knows, that in death from excessive loss of blood, whether spontaneous or fictitious, the same turgescence and distention of the vessels and membranes of the brain exists, that is usually found after the most decided cases of inflammation.

ON THE USE OF CHARCOAL.
Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.
BY WILLIAM B. RUGGIAN, M. D.

The medicinal virtues of charcoal have not been duly appreciated. It being an abundant article, and apparently so simple and inert, it is in consequence often undeservedly neglected for remedies less efficacious. It is an incontrovertible truth, that many of the most valuable articles of the Materia Medica, have acquired their reputation by casual observation, or, forced their way into general use by gradual and progressive steps. Although Charcoal is generally known among physicians to be one of the most powerful antiseptics, yet its use is very limited: The remarkable good effects charcoal produces when mixed with emollient cataplasms, in cleansing febric and ill-conditioned ulcers, and often in arresting the progress of mortification; its qualities of purifying various liquids, as oils, mucilages, vinegar, and particularly water, which will retain its sweetness for several months by charging the water-casks just previous to filling them; its disregard in fermentation in the stomach and bowels; and correcting the feter of dejecto, of the breath, and its utility in sponginess of the gums and as a dentifice, are, I presume, sufficiently familiar to all.

It may be asserted with confidence, that this medicine is one of the best palliatives in dyspepsia. I have witnessed an immediate removal of all the inconveniences arising from indigestion, by a tea-spoonful of powdered charcoal. A small quantity should follow the use of every meal of the dyspeptic. Charcoal, besides its absorbent and antidotal virtues, is proved by Dr. Chapman to be aperient, if taken in a dose of a table-spoonful twice a day. Dr. Poor, of Casilne (Me.), a respectable and intelligent physician, informs me he has made use of charcoal for fifteen years past, in dyspepsia, with most decided good effects. He has invariably palliated the distressing symptoms, and often cured this disease, by a steady use of this article. Dr. P. has also found charcoal an efficacious remedy in dysentery, after previous evacuations, its operation immediate and lasting a considerable time, it is applied to all the symptoms. Charcoal has acquired reputation in Sicily as a remedy in intermittents. For medical use common charcoal may be rendered more pure by filling with it a crucible having a pierced cover, and keeping it red hot as long as a blue flame issues from the aperture in the cover. It is then to be cooled in a dry place, and kept in a close-stopped bottle.

THE INFLUENCE WHICH THE MIND AND BODY EXERCISE UPON EACH OTHER, AS REGARDS HEALTH.

OCCUPATION FOR REMOVING THE UNDER JAW.

Reports.

Our correspondent informs us, that the overseer of the poor in the town of Newbury, Mass., has been particularly strenuous in his exertions to put an end to the serious evil of the habit of chewing the cud at the table. He has created a fund to which the widows of respectable men are not unfrequently to be found among the chief contributors. But the real motive of the undertaking is not of so serious an import as is that of the gentleman who purchased a horse for his son, that he might have a means of removing the jaw, after which he purchased another horse, to enable him to wear another jaw. The latter is far more serious, for it is thought to be the cause of much suffering and inconvenience. The former is an innocent amusement, and is far more suitable for the age of the recipient. The horse is of course to be returned, after the jaw is removed, to the overseer of the poor.

Our correspondent also informs us, that the overseer of the poor in the town of Newbury, Mass., has been particularly strenuous in his exertions to put an end to the serious evil of the habit of chewing the cud at the table. He has created a fund to which the widows of respectable men are not unfrequently to be found among the chief contributors. But the real motive of the undertaking is not of so serious an import as is that of the gentleman who purchased a horse for his son, that he might have a means of removing the jaw, after which he purchased another horse, to enable him to wear another jaw. The latter is far more serious, for it is thought to be the cause of much suffering and inconvenience. The former is an innocent amusement, and is far more suitable for the age of the recipient. The horse is of course to be returned, after the jaw is removed, to the overseer of the poor.

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The regulation of the mind is of the highest importance in the preservation of health, or as a means of assisting the powers of medicine, and alleviating disease. The effects of diseases entirely corporeal, on the mind, are interesting. In hiccups, confidence of returning health constantly prevails, notwithstanding the regular progress of disease, and the rapid increase of debility in every form. In some forms of fever, the depression of spirits is so great, and the conviction of approaching dissolution so strongly fixed upon the mind, that the patient looks upon those as enemies, and greatly lacking discernment, who intiate an expectation of a different result. This complexion might be pursued through a great variety of diseases, but it is sufficient just to hint at it, to put the young practitioner in mind of the importance of keeping it in view. With those of a confident state of mind, little interference is required; yet it is proper sometimes to lessen this confidence, when an arrangement of temporal concerns is necessary. With those whose minds are unreasonably depressed, ridicule is cruel, and argument misapplied. The best course for attendants to pursue in such cases is, to admit the danger, but to magnify the power of medicine; and ostentatiously to describe instances of recovery from similar or worse circumstances. In chronic cases the operation of medicines is sometimes assisted by exciting hope, and by placing the attainment of health beyond the duration of life. If one point can be gained, by the removal of a troublesome symptom it will strengthen the confidence of the patient, and render future progress comparatively easy. The necessity for patients to exercise sufficient power over their own minds, to prevent irritation from little inconveniences and disappointments that must occasionally happen from various causes, should, if necessary, be inculcated. The calm, well-regulated mind possesses considerable advantages over that which is hasty, fretful and impatient. By keeping the passions in a due subordination to the judgment, we obtain the chief good that is to be derived from them. For it is with the passions as with other causes of disease, they do hurt principally from their excess. Our hopes, fears, joys and sorrows are a useful stimulant to the intellectual system, as wine and high-seasoned food are to the corporeal. The topick unintellectual, and the most strictly temperate men, are seldom the most healthy or the longest lived. The principle which regulates our systems, corrects the evil consequences of our deviations, and is opposed to all the innumerable nature, languishes from inaction, as the arm that is confined in a sling becomes paralytic from want of exercise.

To preserve a healthy state of the system, it is as necessary that the mind be regularly employed, so that the different parts of the body are so. Mental inactivity, combined with luxurious living, gives a disordered tendency to every organ. The vessels become overloaded; listlessness, indifference, and lethargy come on; the mind and body, equally torpid, sink together; and no cause of debility produces effects so difficult to counteract. Under such circumstances, a slight abstinence may occasion fainting; exercise is attended with the most distressing fatigue; and an abridgment of the long protracted slumbers, induces a worse languor than it was intended to relieve. An entire loss of sleep, appetite, memory, and sometimes the reason, are the frequent consequences of habits of corporeal indolence, and mental inactivity.
extended itself three and a quarter inches, on each side, and such was the rapidity of its growth, that there was no alternative but to arrest it with the knife. A vertical incision was first made down the under lip, to the thyroid cartilage, and another on a line with the edge of the jaw, and the teguments dissected from the bone. When the whole was properly exposed, the jaw was sawed off on the right side, through the socket of the last double tooth, and on the left through the last socket but one. Only three arteries were taken up: viz. the facial on the right side, and the two linguals.

Our informant adds, that in ten days after the operation, the wound had healed, and the patient's face recovered its proper shape so far, that the side of a doll's head within the under lip, her late misfortune could scarcely be discovered: and that he hears still later that she actually masticates food; and has no hesitation in saying, that he believes a new jaw will soon be generated, which will nearly fulfill the office of the original, although it will be without teeth. The new bone will give shape to the face, if properly moulded by bandages, and be firm and unyielding.

He remarks that it is a law of the animal economy, that if a portion of bone be removed from between the two articulating extremities, a new one will be formed in its place, which will nearly resemble the original. Thus a new thigh bone, a new tibia, a new jaw, are alike the result of arterial action:—and any artery may at times make a deposition of osseous matter;—hence the valves of the heart are often changed into bony plates. It is but a few years since he had in his possession, the skull of a negro, forty-five years of age, which had all the appearance of a young child's, and had lived a little longer, he thinks that a new head would have been completed. The old skull was unquestionably absorbed, and nature had made a strong effort to regenerate the whole bony system.

OPERATION IN THE HAM.
Dr Batchelder lately performed, in Lee, Mass., an operation for removing a fatty tumor, from the ham of an elderly gentleman, which weighed one pound and fourteen ounces.

It commenced on the under and lower part of the right thigh, within the fascia lata, and between the popliteal nerve and artery, and in contact with both, and with the outer hamstring,—for the space of five or six inches up and down the thigh. When removed, the popliteal artery could be felt pulsating in the bottom of the wound, from the joint to the point at which it perforates the biceps adductor muscle. Our informant adds that the whole was healed by the first intention.

Mr Batchelder recently performed the operation for couching, upon a gentleman in Deerfield, Mass.

MR. COX ON THE PECULIAR SPECIES OF CONVULSION IN CHILDREN.
(See page 83.)

Mary Ann Richards, aged seven months. The present ailment was noticed soon after the birth of the child, and within the last three months has rapidly increased in violence. The breathing is constantly shrill, and when disturbed it becomes quite croupy: whenever the child awakes the noise is violent, whether she awakes crying or not. When taking the breast, she requires to be removed about every two minutes, and sometimes oftener, as she seems almost suffocated:

Sarah Rickets, aged ten months.—May 11. This child thrived well till the attack of this disease, which was first noticed about a week since. Without any previous indisposition or unhealthy state of the bowels, it was observed to make a strong crouping noise, which within these few days has increased in frequency and violence: its motions are cheerful; its voice quite healthy; the noise occurs every time she awakes more sharply, when in a passion, or when she laughs. For the last week the head has been observed to droop very much; the sleep disturbed by severe startings; and, when awake, she moans very much; the face twitching very much, and becoming dark-colored round the mouth and eyes; the hands and wrists strongly contracted: one motion daily. H rud. i. temp. Pulv. rhei, gr. ij.; hyd. subm. gr. j. f. pulv. Ol. ricini, 3j. Alt. aur. succend.

19th.—The motions are still offensive, but of a lighter green color: the crouping noise has only occurred twice in two days. Contin. medici.

20th.—The noise alluded to has entirely left: breath rather short, with a slight cough; no increase of heat of the skin, but the tongue is white: motions relaxed, consisting principally of white slime. Cont. medici.

April 20th.—No crouping noise: breath rather shorter: on the strictest inquiry, no convulsive action of the face, hands, or feet, have occurred.


14th.—Coughing violent; breathing short and thick; moaning; drooping of the head; restless at night. Four offensive, knotty motions yesterday. Ol. et. pulv. alt. aur. cont. conium; hirud. sperm. ungu. lytome pone aures infr. 17th.—The head and chest much relieved; motions healthy.

20th.—Convalecent.

Elizabeth Besty, aged one year.—March 18. Five months since had cough and dyspnoea, with fever. These symptoms have varied in degree, but have never left her. A fortnight since was first observed to clench the fingers closely on the palm, with the thumb inside: this left her, and did not return till this morning. A month ago was observed to make a crouping noise: it occurred when danced about in the arms; sometimes, also, it occurred when she awoke: it was sometimes so violent as to alarm the mother for fear the child should be suffocated. Early this morning she appeared extremely restless, and cried violently, kicking the legs about, and drawing them towards the abdomen. The motions have not been healthy for five months—resembling pus—extremely offensive—four in the twenty-four hours. Slight fever; head generally drooping; starts occasionally during sleep. Hirud. iij. temp. Ol. ricini, 3j.; pulv. rhei, gr. iv.; hyd. subm. gr. j. Alt. aur. Mist. carmin. nitrate pro re nata.

23rd.—The crouping noise is not so loud, neither does it occur so frequently; head not so heavy; belly easier. Hirud. iij. Cont. medici.

31st.—Symptoms moderate; a rash coming out on the skin.

April 1st.—The rash came out this morning, and proved to be the measles. Towards the evening she had a strong fit; a quarter of an hour after she had another, which continued, varying in violence, till four the next morning, when she died.

The crouping noise had entirely ceased for several days previous to her death, and she was considered convalescent till the 31st.

James Knowles, aged eight months. April 29th.—Throve well till the age of three months, * the mother's sister had a child to nurse who died of this complaint: it continued till three months, and died in a fit.
when he began gradually to waste away, and, on waking one morning from his sleep, made a most curious noise; it increased in frequency and violence and now occurs eight or nine times a day, sometimes three or four times; crying, or fretting without crying, will produce it; the throat caving suddenly into the breast while he sleeps. He breaks and jumps in his sleep, moans frequently, and droops the head. Three weeks since he had a severe fit, which lasted about ten minutes—Since this time he has eight fits a day at irregular intervals; sometimes come on with the coughing noise; sometimes he throws himself out straight, and remains still till the fit is over; he is then very black about the eyes and mouth, and these parts are much convulsed. He has a severe cough, coming on in paroxysms, and is frequently out of breath from coughing, without making the noise. Bowels rather costive; one or two motions a day—black, brown, or grassy, and occasionally curdled or slimy. All I know further of this case is, that the child died in a fit. A friend of mine examined the abdomen after death, but could not discover anything morbid in it; the head was not examined. —Lond. Med. Repos.

RHUS TOXICO DENDRON IN PARALYSIS.

A young man, twenty years of age, of a strong frame, but stupid mind, was admitted into a hospital for a rheumatic affection, which passed off. He subsequently complained of no pain; he ate and slept well. The muscular power of his hands and feet was diminished, and they were almost useless; the fingers were sometimes passed involuntarily. As this symptom was attributed to his natural stupidity, he was threatened with punishment. The power of his limbs was now so completely lost that he was obliged to be dressed and undressed like a child. In a short time he could not even move his fingers, and was incapable of feeding himself. Various remedies were ineffectually employed; amongst others, the phosphorus in an emulsion. Two days after the use of this article, he became perfectly jaundiced, and was attacked by fever. The relater of the case was now "at his wit's end:" he knew not what to do, and therefore determined to do nothing. In a few days, the last-mentioned symptoms passed off. The appetite returned, and the palsy of the extremities alone remained. He improved so much in general appearance, that another effort was determined upon, to endeavour to afford him relief. Upon the principle of Celsus, that it is better "accepsum remedium experiri quam nullum," the rhiz toxico-dendron was given, a drop night and morning. In eight days, the patient could raise his fingers; in a month, the arms and feet. The dose of the remedy was gradually increased to terrmoptums. In two months, he had the perfect use of his limbs. He was shortly restored to bodily health; but remained imitated in a state of mental imbecility. — Lond. Med. and Phys. Journ.

VARIETIES.

CHILDREN'S FOOD.—A lady of Yorkshire, says the Gazette of Health, observes, in a letter dated May 3d, that in consequence of her child's being so affectionate to the child, instead of being feverish, fat, and fretful, as her proceeding children had been, attended cool and cheerful, free from any symptoms of indigestion, and her teeth without any constitutional disturbance. She has continued this practice with the two more children, with the same good effects. We have some instances of children, who have been kept with questions, in which, if the child should be disposed to constiveness, on account of its asprinrent quality, a little magnesium should be occasionally added to it.

OF THE BRAIN.—The brain is not absolutely necessary to animal life. Infants have been born, and lived sometime without it. We have an authentic account from Paris, of a child that survived the birth four days, and withstood all the struggles of life, but even his head instead of which it had a mass of flesh, somewhat like live. In 1753, a child was born without any brain, cerebellum, or medulla oblongata; the skull being solid: nor had it any communication with the spinal marrow. Mr. Du Verney took out the brain and cerebellum of a pigeon: yet it lived and walked about.—Miss. Chircan took out the brain of a dog: yet he lived. On taking the head; a long head, but he revived when he blew the lungs, and continued alive an hour. Nary, there are many instances of insects living a long time, after their head is cut off. Hence it appears that the spinal marrow alone may for a season, suffice both for life, sensation and motion.

DISTRESSING SICKNESS.—Our village, at the present time, is a perfect hospital, there being but few houses where a doctor or surgeon can be found; but even in this place, a large number of cases of fever, which have existed in this town within the last four weeks, is estimated at more than one hundred; very few of which, however, have proved fatal. The fever which is now prevalent is of the same character as all the rest of the year. The cause of the prevailing disease, must be attributed entirely to accidental circumstances, as no permanent local cause, has been or can be discovered. At a time of season, the temperature is high, without marshes or stagnant pools in the vicinity; irrigated by streams of pure water with a rapid current, no such cause can be assigned, although it is attempted by some, to propagate such a belief. Indeed, the sickness has made its appearance in towns; some of the neighboring towns are suffering in an equal degree. Wendiell, and that part of Grantham called Dubber-Hill, herefore known as always remarkably healthy, are now full of patients of all ages. What appears as the latter place, has been attended with much greater degree of mortality than here. —Newport, N. H. Spectator.

LIVING SKELETON.—A person of the name of Claude Ambrose Scour, has been imported into England. He is about 27 years of age; his height about five feet seven inches; is a complete living skeleton; his bones are discovered with skin: they are about half an inch in length; the skin is partially covered with hair. When speaking, the rotatory motion through the skin of the neck is perceptible, and the pulsation of the heart is conspicuous to the eye; he eats but little, a penny roll being sufficient for a day; he has been attended with constant fear of being killed by every stroke of the joint, muscles, &c are easily seen, he becomes of course a subject of much curiosity.

TRACKERY.—This operation was recently performed in Natchez, Mississippi, for extracting a melon seed from the windpipe, which had been lodged there for several days and nearly proved fatal. The subject had been attended to by Dr. Gorman. The illness lasted for some time, and several of the usual symptoms and remedies were resorted to without effect; at length when every other means had failed, the windpipe was laid open with the knife, and the seed extracted by a pair of curved forceps. The wound soon healed, and the patient recovered.

THE operation for opening the windpipe and introducing a tube through which respiration may be carried on, when swelling or other obstructions exist in the windpipe, is often performed with entire success. Children have been saved in cases of croup, from the operation giving time for the disease to subside.

YEAST.—The Monthly Monitor strongly recommends yeast to be given as an antidote to putrid fevers, and is always sent to a young man being cured of this fatal disease, after his case has been desperate, by administering two tablespoonfuls of yeast, and repeating the dose at intervals of three hours.

OLIVE OIL.—The same work recommends olive oil to be used over the common salves for the cure of wounds. The writer says he has seen terrible lacerations healed up in a few minutes, without any means. The olive oil is obtained, with several folds of cloth saturated with oil, laid over the dressing, renewing the oil when the cataplasms begins to dry.

SKELETON.—A human skeleton was dug from the cellar at the corner of Central and Kilby streets, Wednesday afternoon, by some laborers at work there. We understand, that from appearances, it was buried four or five years since, about two feet under ground.

GREAT MORTALITY.—Out of a population of 2009 inhabitants in the townships of Albany and Greenwich, Pennsylvania, no less than 110 persons recently died of dysentery in the course of seven weeks.

MOBILE.—The sickness in Mobile had materially abated at the last accounts.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 8; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 1.—Mary Ann Ryan, 9 mo; Flavel C. Roberts, 23; John Quincy Adams, jr, 15 days. 2d.—Charles Edward Pratt, 8 mo; Child of Wm. Morse; Harriet Parkman Tilden, 12 mo; Sally Grinnell, 38; Charles Stackpole, 11 mo; Alexander Edwards, 12 mo; Charles Kuhn, 6 mo; Japheth Lord, 31. 3d.—Edward Wood, 5 weeks; Maynard Wheeler, 22; Levi Moore, 55; Abigail Luce, 30; Male child of James Penn, 1 week. 4th.—Andrew Townsend; Mary Ann Rooney, 13 mo; Horace Fenn, 4 mo; Female child of George R. Rea, 15 days. 5th.—Joshua Kimball, 10 mo; Thomas Greene Hubbard, 3; Robert Scott; William Chitt ft, 14; Alice Norman, 74; Horace Dunneake, 14 days; Anne Ebbey, 9 days; Eleazar Parcker, 26. 6th.—Elizabeth Reed, 12 mo; Esther Hollis, 70; James Donninin, 55; Stephen Jones, 80; William Allaine, 54; Jane F. Fenners, 18; Mary Elizabeth Finner, 5; William Dillaway, 2. 7th.—John Cassey, 40; Mary J. Woodbury, 2; Henry S. Kent, 2 1-2. 8th.—Susanna Weeks, 42.

Infantile, 7.—Liber Compliment, 2.—Quinquity, 1.—Consumption, 4.—Stillborn, 1.—Cancer, 1.—Teething, 1.—Croup, 1.—Old Age, 2.—Dropsy, 1.—Fitz.—Bursting of Blood Vessel, 1.—Childbed, 1.—Lung Fever, 1.—Cholera Morbus, 1.—Intemperance, 1.—City Poor, 2.

To Physicians.

MARSH & CAPEN, (at their Book and Stationary Store, No. 363, Washington-Street,) have from the Manufacturer, a constant supply of Portable Electrical Machines, peculiarly constructed for Physicians. They are cheap, and close together with all the necessary apparatus, cannot fail to suit the Faculty, in every respect.

They have also, Thermometers proper for Chemical, Botanical, Hydro, Brewe's, Distillers, Sugar-Hobners, Dyers, Bathing, and Marine purposes, made in the newest manner.

Oct. 11.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures of Harvard University will commence in Boston on the third Wednesday in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. Warrin.

Clinical French, by Dr. Groban.

Midwifery and Med. Jurisprudence, by Dr. Canning.

Materia Medica, by Dr. Bigelow.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. Jackson.

And attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted gratuitously to the surgical operations and clinical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Oct. 11.
OBSEVATIONS.

NOTES

20 DR MINER'S ESSAY ON TYPHUS-SYNOCAPIA.

(Concluded from page 26.)

28. It would be a piece of affectation to pass in entire silence, the great excitement which Sinking-Typhus, in common with every other malignant epidemic, has at different times produced in the public mind. The various and clashing opinions upon this subject, among those who are strangers to Sinking-Typhus, or who have rarely seen a case of it, are well known; and more obloquy and abuse have been cast upon the physicians, who have extensively and skillfully practised in this disease, than in any other that has appeared in our country, the Yellow-Fever not excepted. The ferment may be traced to several combined causes.

First.—Many Physicians are extremely reluctant in acknowledging themselves to be unacquainted with any subject that materially concerns their profession, or in allowing that others have had more extensive experience in any important branch than themselves. They who have not practised extensively in malignant epidemics, can never realize how essentially diseases of the same name and nosological character, vary in their malignant, from their milder and more common form, and how the effects of medicines vary in these different circumstances.

Secondly.—The most malignant diseases in kind, are sometimes so slight in degree, (Plague, Yellow-Fever, and Cynanche, for instance,) that they are often known to yield under very inert practice, under improper practice, and sometimes to recover spontaneously.

Thirdly.—Much confusion arises from names, almost every acute febrile disease at the present day, being usually called Typhus, a term which was formerly restrained to nervous, or putrid fevers. But we now find Cullen's Synoques, (the fevers of the sub-putrid type,) the Spotted-Fever of New England, Pneumonia-pyrophoide, Cynanche-maligna, nervous-fever, putrid-fever, &c., all frequently mentioned under one name, and considered as a mathematical unity, so that when we hear that a person at a distance is laboring under Typhus, or the fever, we have only to guess what is the real disease. No judgment therefore from a given name, can be formed of the propriety of any given method of treatment. Since then Typhus is used as a generic name, we ought to inquire what species is meant. Is it nervous-fever, putrid-fever, bilious-fever, sinking fever, &c., should be the question, if we would expect any thing like a definite answer.

Fourthly.—A great difficulty arises from mixing in a desultory manner, and without a fixed plan, various and opposite modes of practice. Discredit is thus brought upon all; for no one has had a fair trial. When a practitioner is called to a sinking case, his first attempt is usually to Rouse the system with external and internal stimulants. After the immediate danger from the sinking is overcome, he next thinks of clearing the stomach and bowels, as he would in many other fevers, by an active emetic or cathartic. If the disease is Typhus Synoquapius, in its severe form, he will then be sure to sink the patient again. This requires more stimulants, and the patient is alternately stimulated and reduced, till a fatal coma or sinking ends the scene. Excitants have been used beyond all bounds, the patient is lost, and the practice brought into disrepute, and clamor raised against stimulants. The truth is, no one course has been properly followed, and closely adhered to, but the patients have sunk irretrievably, under a vacillating and heterogeneous intermixture of exciting and reducing agents. It must never be forgotten, that this is a new disease, and not described, at least systematically, by any foreign author.

Fifthly.—The false notion of the necessity of evacuating the contents of the alimentary canal, whether they are morbid or healthy, or whether there are any specific indications for this process or not, or whatever may be the general condition or diathesis of the patient, or the idea that such evacuations are always necessary, to counteract the susceptibility to stimulants and tonics, and rouse the vital energies of the patient, or the groundless theoretical apprehension that the continued use of stimuli, in acute atonic diseases, will occasion dangerous excitement, or will be liable to produce what is called indirect debility, because such might be the effect in health, are generally urged in justification of such a course, by those who have not the positive experience to the contrary, even in the severest and most threatening cases. Every urgent case, is irretrievably lost under such treatment, however freely exciting and tonic drugs may be employed in the beginning. Where the attack is mild and insidious, the real danger is usually misapprehended, till violent symptoms are produced by an ill-timed emetic or cathartic, or till the final sinking of a critical period; and then, however much a free and decisive use of stimulants may palliate the symptoms, yet the patient is often incapable of being raised; and in this set of cases likewise, death too often is the ultimate result.

Both these sets of cases are therefore adduced, by the sceptical, in evidence of the inefficacy of stimulants; and their supposed injurious or noxious effects, are subsequently inferred by the observation of a third set of cases, which commence in the same manner as the second, but which in reality are so moderate, as to recover under a mere placebo treatment, or no treatment, or even in defiance of a moderately depilating and evacuating course, without the aid of any kind of stimuli.

It is believed however, that much the greatest difficulty arises, from the theoretical speculations of gentlemen, who have never witnessed any very malignant cases through their whole course. A casual visit in consultation, can afford but a faint idea of the general truth of symptoms, or of the powers and effects of a proper course of medication. [See the author's Essay on Experience, on ESSAYS ON FEVERS, AND OTHER MEDICAL SUBJECTS.]

TREATMENT OF CYNANCHE TRACHEALIS.


The general symptoms of croup, the extreme danger of the disease, the frequent inefficacy even of the most active and best directed treatment, and the striking appearances on dissection, are familiar to every practitioner. There is one fact, however, in the history of this disease, which has not as yet been noticed by authors on the subject; and one means of treatment, which has been repeatedly successful in my own hands and in the hands of those from whom I first received my information of its utility, which, I have reason to believe, has not come into general use.

The fact to which I refer is, that the exudation of fibrin very frequently commences on the
ON RESUSCITATION FROM DROWNING,
WITH IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN APPLYING HEAT. Communicated for the Medical Intelligence.
BY DR. ANNA TROWBRIDGE.

The best method to restore persons when life is suspended by drowning, has occupied the attention of many individuals and humane societies. Notwithstanding the minute and scientific investigations which have been given the subject, the success for resuscitating has advanced but little; the most salutary methods are but little known, or put in operation. The attention that has been paid the subject has not been rewarded by proportionate improvements.

The great mass of mankind, believe, that, if a drowned person is recoverable, common and obvious methods will succeed; if irrecoverable, all the efforts of the most refined science will fail. It is difficult to account why a person who has been under water an hour has been soon resuscitated, and another who has been under ten minutes, after three hours exertion, and under the same process, should not recover.

We know there is a great difference in the irritability of the systems of different persons, and when life is suspended, it is not with every person again recalled with equal ease: the hopes of recovery are less in proportion to the time a person has been immersed and the degree of coldness of the water, and after remaining 20 minutes, there is but small hope to justify exertions. Instances are recorded, where recovery has followed after immersion for sixteen hours. Medical records are full of surprising facts which require more than ordinary faith to admit. On occasions of this nature, the cause of humanity calls for every rational exertion; let every attempt be made, and should they fail, let the practitioner, at least, be satisfied with his efforts.

The immediate cause of death from drowning has occasioned much speculation and controversy. Some have contended that the lungs were filled with water, which suflicated by preventing the access of air: to demonstrate this fact, animals have been immersed in colored fluids, and the lungs were tinged with the same colors. All allow that water enters the trachea and lungs, but by admitting this fact, they do not admit that it is the cause of death: they suppose that when it is found in the lungs, it passes in after death. In this supposition, the slightest irritation of any fluid, produces a stricture in the trachea, and prevents the access of the fluid; and it is not probable that the epiglottis is raised to admit a fluid, until the last feeble and convulsive actions of the diaphragm and large muscles concerned in inspiration, take place: we can easily suppose that the epiglottis may be raised after relaxation by the process of death; and if so, fluids would be admitted.

From dissections of drowned persons and animals, it does appear that water is contained in the trachea and lungs. Death may be attributed to two causes: first, the immersed person suffers by spasm produced in the glottis by the access of the fluid preventing respiration; this accumulates the blood in the right side of the heart, and consequently prevents the return from the veins; congestions in the system follow, and if the action of the heart is not soon renewed, the blood not only congeals in the vessels, but in the capillary system and extremities of the arteries: this would depend much on the length of time of immersion, and degree of cold surrounding the body. The stoppage of respiration soon produces death, and I have said, that the time is various from the different irritability of different persons. Apoplexy and congestion in the brain, as some have supposed to be the cause of death, would not be likely to take place till the principle of life was entirely suspended,—till death had pervaded the whole system, the blood in the brain, heart, and large arteries, would be the last to congeulate, were the last remains of excitability.

The first change, then, produced by drowning, consists in stoppage of respiration, and the consequent distention of the right side of the heart; our first efforts should be to restore the action of the lungs, which will alone relieve the over-distended ventricle; and if the excitability of the extreme arteries, capillary system, and veins, can be restored, or increased to a healthy standard, resuscitation may follow.

I shall quote on the different opinions which have been offered on this subject, or attempt to illustrate the difficulties which the various views have produced in the mode of treatment.

Too much delay in finding a suitable place for the body, in procuring means for the application of warmth, and for apparatus to inflate the lungs, &c. &c. has induced me to make a few remarks and bring to notice, and into use, an apparatus which can be ready, and used at any minute and at any place where the body may be found. This apparatus is calculated for the cases of suspended animation; yet it may be useful to the community in general, as the apparatus to be used can be kept in villages, settlements, and neighborhoods, contiguous to ponds, rivers, and bodies of water, where accidents of this nature often occur; and any person of common understanding may soon learn the manner of using it.

On receiving the body, let it be divested of all wet clothing, and dried. While this is doing, (under an impression that there is more or less water in the trachea and lungs,) let the body be suspended by the feet, and press with the hands against the diaphragm. In cases of partial resuscitation, and when death finally takes place, there appears to be a convulsive action of the lungs and difficult inspiration; probably from the quantity of fluid remaining in the lungs: the powers of the system being feeble, this offending body may in this case be the cause of death, after resuscitation has commenced.

The application of a suitable degree of heat and friction to the surface of the body, and particularly to the extremities; and inflating the lungs with warm air mixed with vapor from hot alkali, artificial breathing, and stimulating cords introduced into the trachea, are the most important means to be used. The following plans to effect these objects, can be made more effectual than any which I have known.
To apply Heat.—Be provided with a woollen sack, seven feet long and three breadth, made tight at the bottom, with a leather tube passing out two feet long, of two inch caliber; let the upper part of the sack, near its edge, on the inside, be lined with velvet, and a worsted string put in, so that it can be drawn close round the neck of the patient, let there be an opening on each side, sufficiently large for the introduction of the hand and arm, for the purpose of friction; this should be done with a dry flannel cloth, or a coarse woollen glove. Be provided with Jenning's apparatus for a vapor bath, made of sheet iron, with a tube two feet long and one inch caliber, with a stop-cock, a grill of alcohol, and a lantern with a lighted candle.

On receiving the body, stripped, and wiped dry, place it in the sack. Tie the leather tube passing out of the lower end of the sack, to the tube of the vapor machine. Fill the cup in the base of the machine, with alcohol, and touch it with the lighted candle; the vapor, or gas, passes in the tube, and around the body of the patient, and gives a very agreeable and invigorating warmth, without moisture. The whole of this application can be made in two minutes, as much heat let on as is wanted, and regulated at pleasure. If a room, bed, mattress, &c. can be obtained without loss of time, improve them; if not, the body may be placed on the ground, on boards, or any other dry substance, and your restorative process carried on, till other means are furnished: remember, that time is important at this juncture; a few minutes' delay, loses the patient.

Inflating the Lungs.—This can be best effected by a bellows communicating with a flexible pipe introduced into the larynx; or if this cannot be readily done, through an aperture made between the rings of the trachea. It is folly to depend on blowing with the mouth, or through a quill or pipe; the accumulation of mucus, and its cramp and mucous, will prevent a full inflation of the lungs in this way. The bellows recommended by Dr. Hunter in his Philosophical Transactions, is the best: but the small common ones will answer very well. For the purpose of introducing saline gases with atmospheric air, a leathern tube may be fastened near the opening in the under part of the bellows, and to a bottle containing the gas; when the bellows is filled, some of the gas would be received with the atmospheric air, and be thrown into the lungs. When the air is introduced, the thorax should be pressed and the abdominal viscera raised against it, to enable in some manner its capacity; for when a train of associated motions has begun, they are often continued from whatever point they may have commenced. While the lungs are thus stimulated, the stomach, the important organ with which the whole system so evidently sympathizes, should not be neglected. By introducing a flexible tube, any stimulating fluid, or cordial, can be introduced. The body, during this process, should be placed in a semi-erect position.

The process of reanimating a lifeless body is the most interesting that the physician meets with. Decision, promptitude, and energy, must attend every step: not so much for the purpose of doing a great deed, as for the purpose of doing what is necessary, with dispatch and correctness.

Should some fastidious persons ask an apology for my publicly approaching this important subject, they may receive for answer, because nothing is more needed, and the subject has been too much neglected by those better qualified.

Wetmore's Chemical Analysis.

There has been an indifference on the part of physicians in investigating this, more than almost any other disease. The description that was given of it two hundred years ago, has been repeated by almost every author who has written upon it since. The disease undoubtedly depends on the same cause now that it did then; this was said to be debility, which is a very convenient term; its vagueness is well adapted to correspond with the obscurity of the ideas to which it is often applied. If it be debility, it is a kind which can no more be removed by tonics, than we can successfully oppose that which arises from infected viscera by barks.

Nothing is more trifling and indiscriminate in the records of medicine, than the treatment which has been recommended for relieving chorea. The purgative plan has certainly been the most successful, and attended with the least danger of a relapse. The most active articles have been the most useful; otherwise a choice is of little importance. In the Edinburgh Medical Journal, and in Dr. Hamilton's volume, there are many cases of well conducted successful determination of children by this plan. There was no necessity for following the purgatives by tonics. The efforts of nature, after she is properly relieved from the load of morbid action that has accumulated in the bowels of the patient, is usually sufficient to restore to the system the general health, with rapidity and effect.

ACIDITY.

An acid acrimony may be occasioned either by laxity and debility in the organs of digestion, or by an excess of ascensive food. When digestion is imperfect, acidity is the consequence, though no such process as fermentation has preceded. The food of children is for the most part the vegetable kind, and readily turns sour in the stomach, if the body be any way disordered; hence most of their complaints are accompanied with evident signs of acidity,—as green stools, gripping pains in the bowels, &c. It is frequently asserted that a premane acid is the prime cause of all the diseases among children; but acidity in their stomach is often an effect than a cause of their complaints. It is not acidity, but its excess that does harm, and this is always a consequence of some error in diet or deficiency in the powers of digestion.

Redundant acid in the alimentary canal, may be known by sourness of the eructations, frequent pain in the stomach, flatulence, and gripping pains in the bowels, there is goutiness, paleness of the skin, itching comes on, pustules appear, and a train of nervous symptoms soon follows. In diseases peculiar to children, there are, for the most part, symptoms of an excess of irritation; the pulse is accelerated, the stomach is disordered, the vessels of the skin are contracted, and convulsive fits follow.

As this is frequently a cause of great mortality among children, we cannot be too attentive to its treatment, nor too early in the use of remedies, for if neglected, it is likely to end in some obstinate or incurable disease. To commence with, then, children if not too feeble, should be exercised more and fed less. Twice as many die in consequence of pampering and feeding upon delicacies, as from want, neglect or acute disease. If medicine must be employed, let it be done under the superintendence of a physician. Purgative and mild drops, the grand remedies in which nurses on all occasions put their trust, are improper articles to be administered in efficient doses, in the commencement of a majority of disorders that are peculiar to children. Castor oil, the most potent article in the nurse's materia medica, and her last resort in cases of emergency, is also objectionable where there is acidity in the stomach and bowels.—This complaint is not peculiar to children, nor does it always depend on the taking of the food. It is a mark of disordered digestion, and may proceed from many different causes. Corded milk ejected is a popular and decisive proof of a sour stomach. But this is often fallacious; for the stomach of an infant will curdle milk, when the nicest test cannot detect the least particle of acid. From all that is known upon this subject, it is supposed that the principles of the vegetable acid, (for of this nature is the morbid acid of the stomach,) are found in food of every kind, and that, when their union is destroyed in the first periods of digestion, a new compound takes place. Calculous, and magnetis earths, only act as palliative in diseases which arise from acidity; their cure depends on strengthening the system, and invigorating the action of the stomach.

REPORTS.

ACCIDENTAL POISONING FROM PRUSSIC ACID.

The foreign journals contain two recent instances of poisoning, which possess many points of interest. Both were the result of accident; the subject of one was Dr. B.—a physician at Nimes, and that of the other, a celebrated chemist, M. Thenard. Dr. B. is one of those ardent pursuers of science who volunteer experiments in their own persons. Having taken a teaspoonful of prussic acid in the morning without inconvenience, he took another teaspoonful after dinner: not satisfied with his escape, he ventured to unite the doses, taking the whole in two portions after an interval of a few seconds between them. He thought it lasted a little stronger than his morning's dose, in fact, it was a different preparation, but remarked, 'It had not hurt him, however.' But on walking out of the shop, in which he had made this last experiment, he felt an alarming kind of disturbance in his head; he returned, and, after uttering a few words expressive of his apprehensions, fell down & c. as dîant et fourvoyé? The pharmacien, who was, of course, in no small trepidation, gave him 'lilium de Paracelsus' and ammonia, though the teeth were so firmly closed that very little of either could be administered. The other symptoms induced were a continually increasing dyspnoea, the respiration being noisy and rattling; coldness of extremities, distortion of the mouth (from which an odor of bitter almonds was emitted,) very small pulse in the right arm, and none in the left; the face and neck red and swollen; pupils fixed and dilated; in a word, the state of a man attacked with a fatal apoplexy. The trismus went on increasing in intensity; a violent but brief convulsion followed, and the abdomen, particularly the epigastric region, seemed to become rapidly tumefied. The treatment at this period consisted of frictions with tincture of cantharides and pure ammonia; compresses dipped in the same mixture, and large sinapisms being employed at the
same time. An iron spoon was passed between the teeth with great difficulty, and the feathers of a pen made to reach the faucées; this excited efforts to vomit, by which some dark-colored mucus was thrown off. Attempts were now made to give the patient some coffee, at first alone, and afterwards with the oil of turpentine. Ice was applied to the head. During this time Dr. B. frequently raised his thumbs to his mouth, as if it were automatically.

After remaining in this state four hours and a half, he began to show signs of returning reason, uttering the words, I have taken prussic acid—recommend my son to your care—Give me air, and let me die. He immediately recognized those around him, and asked for some coffee, which the state of his mouth (irritated by the substances employed) would not permit him to take. The intellectual faculties were gradually restored; but considerable dyspnoëa and very distinct rattle remained: occasional fits of coughing caused the expectation of small quantities of yellowish-black mucus, the latter coming for a moment. Dr. B. rapidly caught inspiration to be applied to his feet and legs, and a strongly purgative contusion to be administered. After every stool a quantity of gas was discharged from his mouth, having a strong odor of prussic acid. There was not the least symptom of paralysis. About six the next morning he was car- ried home, and he was able to walk up two pair of stairs unassisted.

Dr. B. was thirteen days before he could go out to see his patients, during which time the dyspnoëa was frequently disturbing; particularly when he turned in bed and woke in the night. At last he quite recovered.

Mr. Talbot, who is the narrator of this luckless attempt to extend pharmaceutical and therapeutical knowledge, observes, that it illustrates the great difference in the different preparations of the acid. The morning dose was prepared by Dr. B. himself; the afternoon dose was prepared after Scheele's method, but the double dose was sent by M. Delonde, and purchased of M. Vaquerelin. He observes, that the first action of the poison was shewn to be on the brain, of which the nervous influence was suddenly suspended, the spinal nerves continuing to act. The convolution which supervened he attributes to temporary irritation of the medulla spinalis. A very powerful action seemed to be effected on the organs of respiration; and also on the kidneys, for there was more or less suppression of urine for the first four days. In cases of this kind, M. T. advises that the antidote, if there be an antidote, should be introduced by the nasal passages.—Rev. Med. Ferrier.

VARIETIES.

An Instance of Suspended Animation.—A laborer who had fallen from a scaffolding in England, was carried, apparently dead, to medical aid, and after menſ had been applied without success for his recovery, his friends carried him into the street, and in his presence the surgeon to procure a coffin. A more skilful surgeon, however, hearing the circumstances, examined the body, and found heat enough to convince him that the vital spark was not fled. He at first opened a vein in the arm, but no blood of consequence came; on drawing the scalpel over both branches of the temporal artery, he bled profusely. Before a pound had flowed he breathed, and when two pounds were drawn he respirated almost naturally. Several hours passed between the time of his fall and that of the operation which restored a fellow being to life. It occurred to the surgeon at the time, (and which he found in another similar case,) that the blood remains in the principal arterial system when the suprarenal invetions become nearly empty; and what remains in them is partly congealed from losing its free carbonic acid; also that the arteries retained the elasticity and vital properties a considerable time after the veins had lost their little contractile power necessary to carry on the circulation.

Crystalline Lenses of Animals Emul allied to Man.—Dr. Brewster, so well known to the scientific world, has lately suggested the employment of the crystalline lenses of animals in single microscopes; in cases where high magnifying powers are required, no artificial lenses which we can obtain are so adapted, and externally so perfect as those which we receive from the hand of nature. The crystalline lenses of fishes, from their superior density, which renders them less liable to injury than the glasses which we use, and which may easily be done by adjusting the lens to a convexe aperture in a small plate of metal, &c. A lens thus disposed will, it is said, preserve its transparency for some hours. In cases where high magnifying powers are not required, the crystalline lenses of animals will be found more convenient than those of fishes, as embracing a larger field of view, and as they are in general easily attainable, and in situations where no artificial lens can be procurable. A knowledge of this fact may frequently be of use to the naturalist. Dr. Brewster's observations are contained in the Edinburgh Journal of Science.

CARNIVOROUS PLANT.—The Drosera Rutidofolia may now be found on Hampstead Heath; this unobtruive but interesting plant, appears to require animal matter for its nourishment, and is furnished with an apparatus for catching flies; the leaves are rounded with a space which is a brilliant drop of viscid fluid, which, if a fly touches, he becomes entangled: the filaments then curve towards the centre of the leaf, bringing their prisoner with them, and holding him there till the stock away. A plant kept free from insects vegetated strongly, but never bloomed.—This, and the D. Latifolia, are the only natives of the country that have this property; but several exotic require this sort of food, and some have been successfully supplied with beef.

Mode of Preparing Mode.—A preparation very similar to the Chinese moxa, and equally effective, may be made by heating over a duty fire in a quartz, and therin saturating some very fine cotton wadding; which, being afterwards dried and divided into small parcels, is to be enclosed in paper cylinders, about half inch in diameter, and one inch in height. This preparation burns, we are told, in a very slow and gentle manner, and only requires being kept dry to be at all times fit for use.—Boyle on Moxa.

Sickness in Nantucket.—An extraordinary mortality among children in this place has prevailed for some months past, and still continues to sweep off numbers every week. The principal maladies are hooping cough, mumps, and cholera; but have generally been attended with a malignancy hitherto unknown. In addition to the published reports of death this week, we learn that several have taken place, the particulars of which have not reached us.—Surgical Register.

BOSTON DISPENSARY.—The following is an abstract of the Returns of the Physicians for 1835.

Eastern District, 41 cases, and 40 deaths; Dr. John Corrill, M. D., cases 566—deaths 25.

Southern District, Dr. Winslow Lewis, Jr., M. D., cases 566—deaths 25, cured 192, relieved 263, removed and still sick 46.

Western District, by Geo. W. Otis, M. D., cases 251—deaths 10, cured 211, relieved 32, removed and still sick 63.

Northern District, by John D. Wells, M. D. cases 619—deaths 35, cured 428, relieved 32, removed and still sick 63.

Total in the city—cases 2038—deaths 104—cured 1672—relieved 66—removed to Hospital or still sick 147. In 1834, the whole number of cases was 1405.

SMALL-POX.—Monsieur Serres, a physician of the Hospital of Fity, is said to have discovered a method of averting the small-pox. It consists in cautering the pustules with nitrate of silver.

The Voice.—The voice bears a relation to the prevailing powers; if a man be very secretive and sly, his voice will be low and deep; if he is very combative, firm, or courageous, his voice will be of a stronger tone.

Mortality in New Orleans.—There were 157 deaths in New Orleans, during the month of August.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 14; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 9.—John Farris, 9 mo.; James Price, 60; Jesse Willis, 36; Anna Richards, 69; Elizabeth Law- son, 65; James F. Colston, 9 mo. 10th.—Anthony W. L. Lombard, 7 mo.; Benjamin Evans, 6; Elizabeth Bates, 11 weeks; Mary Earl, 45; 11th.—James H. Barton, 24; Mary Donnaho, 2. 12th.—Patrick Dempsey, 21; William Phillips, 77; William Waldo Thayer, 5; Joseph Stacy, 28; Jeremiah Kitchidge, 2 weeks. 13th.—Aaron Lakin, 24. 14th.—Elizabeth Crosby, 2 months.

Dyspepsy, 2.—Droopy in the chest, 1.—Suicide, 1.—Inanition, 1.—Dyspepsy, 2.—Fits, 1.—Group, 1.—Intemperance, 1.—Bilious Fever, 1.—Hooping Cough, 1.—Accidental, 1.—Pleurisy, 1.—Liver Complaint, 1.—Canker, 1.—Drowned, 1.—City Poor, 2.

Died.—On Wednesday morning the 28th ult. at his plantation, near Sneedborough, Anson county, N. C. of a bilious fever, Dr. John King, long a distinguished practitioner of that State. Died, at New York, 22d ult., Dr. Eliza C. Dick, aged 72. He was one of the physicians who attended Washington in his last moments.

In Paris, Dr. Gres, aged 84.

At Windsor, Dr. Walcott, aged 79.

At the U. S. Arsenal, near Augusta, Geo. Dr. T. F. Hall, of the U. S. Army.

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Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are ad- mitted gratuitously to the surgical operations and clinical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Nov. 11.
OBSERVATIONS.

ADDENDA

TO DR. MINER'S TREATISE ON TYPHUS-SYNCYTIAL.

(See page 83.)

Typhus-Syncytial has continued to be the prevailing disease, and there have not been more than one or two weeks at a time since March, 1823, in which it has not been observed; though occasionally for months, the number of cases on hand has been so small, that the aggregate of the population was quite healthy. Except in the cold autumn of 1823, and in the excessively hot summer of 1825, when in July the mercury was for several days many hours above 90 deg., the degree of mortality has been less, than in any similar severe disease, to which this section of the country is liable. The cases of sudden and violent attack vary very little, either in their general appearance or appropriate treatment, in different seasons or years; but the insidious, in different years, and according to the complaints with which they are frequently blended previous to the accession of paroxysms of sinking, often assume a very diversified appearance, and occasionally admit of a considerable diversity of practice.

Petechie have been very common the present year; swelling and soreness of the gums, mouth and throat, sometimes followed by a severe thrush, have been seen when not a particle of mercury had been employed. Among children more especially, a suspicous reaction of only a few hours, with stinging heat, has occasionally appeared; but generally, the coldness and languor soon returned. Several typhus insidious cases have been broken up by aedea emetics; and in some others of the same kind, Calomel and Opium have done equally well. In some neighboring towns, but not in this, the first attack has been so violent that no medication has made any permanent impression, and some patients have been seen that have died within three days—one, in ten hours. Several of the insidious cases of the present year have been unusually protracted, and have assumed somewhat the appearance of chronic complaints, the paroxysms of sinking occurring in a severe degree only once every seven days, though there was generally a moderate and obvious indica- emetics every morning, or rather, every forenoon. Such cases have been occasionally protracted, especially under insufficient treatment, eight or ten weeks, and some of them have proved fatal. In no disease is it so necessary to meet every symptom instantly; and the paroxysms of sinking when pernicious, should always be anticipated, by such means as will tend to prevent them. In one point of view, Typhus-synctial differs from every other fever, and that is the degree of severity of the most distinctly marked cases. As Darwin said of Cynanche, it admits of every gradation, from a flea-bite to the Plague. More than half the cases are usually so mild as to require but very slight medication, provided all injurious measures are avoided.

Typhus-Syncytial may be defined, A Nervous-fever, in which the stage of reaction is wanting, the torpid or forming stage and the stage of exhaustion being blended together, attended with pain in the head and vertigo, and paroxysms of gastron sinking; and for the most part, with a cool skin and a slow pulse, and an absence of all febrile smell. Petechie, eruptions ecchymoses, general suffusion of the capillaries, coma, delirium, pulseitation, interrupted respiration, numbness and insusceptibility to the action of ordinary rubefacients and epistaxis, and sinking after evacuations, are much more common than in any other febrile disease. By attending to these symptoms, it may be more easily distinguished than any other continued fever. Convul or delirium may sometimes be so severe or so protracted, as to overpower or disguise every other symptom; or the attack may be so violent as to destroy life in a few hours; and in these circumstances, in sporadic cases there may be, with the inexperienced, some hesitation as to the nature and name of the complaint; but on the whole, there is less liability to mistake, than in the diagnostics of any other acute fever with which we are in the habit of meeting in the ordinary course of practice. Dysentery, Cholera, Cynanche, Catarrh, Congi, Pneumonia, Measles, Rheumatism, Gout, and even common Typhus, are often complicated with it; yet there is always some prominent symptom by which it may be determined, when the general affection of the system is that of Typhus-synctial.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

Treatment of the Various Modifications of Ophthalmia.

The first variety of ophthalmia which I shall mention, is the ophthalmia taris; the treatment of which is twofold; first, the treatment of the local affection itself; and, secondly, the treatment of the disorder of other parts of the body with which it is conjointed. In regard to the local treatment of the eye, the principal thing generally necessary is to apply the citrate of oxygen to the edges of the eye-lids occasionally. The best method of using it is as follows:—Take a small camel's hair brush, and having dipped it into the softened ointment, pass it rapidly through the flame of a candle or lamp, giving it at the same time a rotary motion, between the fingers and thumb, to prevent the hairs of the brush from being burnt. Having thus melted the ointment, smear it lightly over the lower and upper lid, along each ta-

[Note: No theory leads to more exceptional practice than that, which supposes sinking-Typhus to be originalty a digestive disease. This has been the cause of the death of hundreds, and converted hundreds of mild into tedious and protracted cases, and into spurious bilious fevers. Those physicians who avoid much vomiting or purging, and have no secretions, will find the Typhus efficiently in substance, or by emesis, are seldom much troubled with vomiting, and rarely mistake it for a gastricus or bilious fever.

Two Essays on Type, and Essay on Stage, in Essays on Several.]
extraordinary, it is hardly ever used now; give
a grain or two of it every other night in similar
cases. The hydrargyrum c. creta is also a good preparation, and so is the notorious blue pill, when discreetly prescribed. Once more I repeat, only exhibit remedies where you ascertain
from accurate examination, that there is a defective section of bile and when that be-
comes sufficient, leave off all mercurials instant-
ly. But instead of doing this, some persons rec-
ommend mercury to be continued in chronic af-
fications, as long as the stools appear unnatural,
not knowing that mercury makes and maintains
them in so many cases. The external and inter-
nal glands, then, are apt to take on a low kind of inflammation, attended by mucous irritation, and the patient, if young and weak, frequently becomes a mass of scrofula. There is no medi-
cine which appears to me to have so powerful an
influence in creating that condition called
struma, or scrofula, when given repeatedly in
the absence of all febrile symptoms. It is, in-
deed, a common cause of what is called strumous
ophthalmia itself. A third point in the medical
management, is the use of the warm bath, the
warm salt water bath, an excellent remedy in
restoring the healthy functions of the skin, liver, and
bowels. With respect to the regimen of the
disease, the food should be wholesome and
nutritious. Children should have a meal of
bread and milk in the morning, a meal of plain
animal food, and a small quantity of vegetables
in the middle of the day, and bread with milk
again in the evening; cakes, sweetmeats, fruits,
and all nice things being avoided. It is impor-
tant even to attend to the manner in which veg-
etables are dressed, especially the potatoes,
which should be mealy throughout its whole
substance, for then it is digested easily enough;
but there is nothing more difficult to digest than
an imperfectly dressed, hard, or heavy potatoe.
Another point to attend to is the air which pa-
tients breathe, as that if possible, should be
pure. A breath of pure air is at any time bet-
ter than a dose of blue pill. (A laugh.) Plants
 languish in a thick close atmosphere, and human
bodies do the same. The genuine cockney,
therefore, of close, crowded, contaminated situ-
atons, is always a degenerate animal. One se-
nate in the maintenance of health in the metrop-
olis, is regular exercise in the open air. Exer-
cise, indeed, is another important point, for it
has great influence upon the secretions of the
skin, stomach, liver, and bowels, and consequent-
ly on the process of digestion. This, closing,
too, should always be considered in our variable
climate. A very delicate child is easily chilled;
the skin, stomach, liver, and bowels thereby be-
come disordered, as an attack of strumous oph-
thalnia is by no means uncommon, which is al-
ways the most difficult of cure when the atmos-
phere is damp and cold. Sleep at early hours
is also of more consequence than is usually sup-
posed, for hardly any thing tends to maintain
the associated disorder of the skin, stomach, liv-
er, and bowels. As this low inflamed and in-
flammation, more than sitting up late at night.
Cold and improper food, with want of early or
sufficient sleep, are the most common causes of
ophthalmia tarsi, and should therefore be attend-
ed to in conducting the cure.

Now as to that modification of inflammation of the eyelids combined with chronic inflamma-
tion of the conjunctiva, it will generally yield to
a similar local and regimen management.
This modification is by no means uncommon
in adults, and it is surprising how rapidly many pa-
tients recover when treated in the above man-
er. I saw a lady who had this form of oph-
thalnia. Her eyes were gummy and red, like
a ferret’s; she was obviously out of health; her
skin was pale, her tongue furred; her sleep un-
sound and unrefreshing, and her stools morbid
and scanty. This, indeed, is generally the con-
dition of patients with such a chronic affection.
On investigating the habits of this patient, I
found a cause sufficient to account not only for
the inflammation of the eye, but for all the oth-
er symptoms. I desired her to put down on a
piece of paper the quantity and kind of all flu-
ids and solids which she took in the course of the
twenty-four hours. It was an enormous quanti-
y; 50 or 60 ounces of solids and fluids was this
lady in the habit of swallowing daily. I put her
upon a simple diet of 16 ounces of food in the
day, and the ophthalmia disappeared in a very
short time. Patients themselves must mainly
contribute to cure chronic affections. There is
very little efficacy in medicine, abstractedly
considered, in such cases. It is only one of ma-
ny measures, the conjunction of which is neces-
sary to produce the desired effect. Do be hon-
est in your intercourse with your patients. Re-
move from their mind that mysterious and mar-
keting efficacy which they ascribe to mere med-
ical prescription, and teach them to rely less on
medicines, and more on themselves, in the cure
of all such affections. Endeavour to correct all
bad habits. In this chronic affection, however,
a stimulant application sometimes does good,
and, in general, nothing answers better than a
weak solution of the sulphate of copper, or al-
um, or a very minute proportion of the nitrate
of silver in water. Let the rule of application
be the diminution of the pain. If there be any
local increase of pain, it does harm.

(Blood-letting in Diseases of Children.

That children cannot bear much evacuation of blood, is an opinion generally taken for granted, and the treat-
ment of their diseases regulated accordingly. That
this is a wrong impression, and its practical tendency
injurious, has not only been proved by the experience
of eminent physicians, but that practice governed by
the opposite principle is safe, and has been to a
great degree successful. Children, from the fulness of
their vessels, and excitability of their systems, are peculiarly
liable to affections of an inflammatory nature, and
most of their diseases are attended with an excess of
irritation. It follows, therefore, that they often re-
quire, through the medium of blood, as they do not at the
time bear the loss of blood better than adults, they un-
edly recover with more certainty, and much sooner,
from its effects.

The prejudice against bleeding in diseases of chil-
ren, seems to have arisen from the opinion that owing
to an extreme delicacy and frailty of constitution, they
cannot bear any vigorous operation. Consequently
the usual practice in their complaints is very in-
efficient—precisely that which may be called neutral, if
indeed it be not more in favor of the disease than against
it. Observation proves that the contrary of this opin-
ion is true. Children are extremely tenacious of life,
and the restoring powers of their constitutions are very
strong. They often recover from trains of symptoms
under which adults sink. They have been found liv-
ing in the arms of their mothers who had perished
from cold. They recover sooner than adults from wounds,
injuries, and surgical operations. They also support
better the operation of powerful medicines, such as
produce vomiting, purging, and sweating. They like-
wise recover their strength more rapidly after being
reduced by disease and depletion, whether from bleed-
ing or other means. Therefore, so long as there is life
remaining, however discouraging the situation of the
patient may be, the cases of children in acute disease
should not be considered as desperate. But still re-
taining hope, and trusting in the restorative powers of
nature, we should continue to administer to the differ-
ent indications as they arise, even till the last spark of
life is extinguished.

Health of October.

This month, as it generally is in our latitude,
has been a season of trial and decay to the constitutions
of those who have formerly suffered from chronic disor-
ders of the lungs or liver. Diseases of these organs,
which are consequent to exposures to sudden changes
of weather, constitutional weakness or predisposition,
or to the disgraceful folly of debauchery and habits
of intemperance, and have been kept at bay dur-
ing the summer by the renovated strength with
which nature in that season defends all her works,
have reappeared with their characteristic obstinacy,
and by their regular course towards a fatal termina-
tion, demonstrate the inefficacy of all remedies that
have hitherto been employed to arrest their progress.
Besides the increased aggravation of symptoms in old
cases, which the chilly mornings and evenings of Octo-
ber have seemed to induce, incipient disorders of the
lungs and air passages are making unusually rapid
progress.

Independently of exposures to sudden changes
of weather and other causes commonly enumerated,
many cases of serious disorder of some important organ
are occasioned by impressions made upon the nervous sys-
tem generally, through excitements, depressions and
anxieties of mind alone, as all these ultimately tend to
exhaust the energy of the body so far, that the exciting
causes of disease are likely to take effect. In large
towns, where there is every facility for social inter-
course, every thing is in the extreme, and life is an in-
tellectual or physical fever,—a state of alternate ex-
citement and collapse is kept up, till nature becomes
exhausted by a constant stretch of exertion, and yields
to the attack of some acute disorder, or gradually sinks
under the weight of chronic disease.

As a preventive to pulmonary disorders, it is of the
utmost importance that those who are predisposed to
them, maintain the general strength by a nutritious
diet and other regimen means, and give tone to the
surface of the body by tepid and cool sponging or ablu-
tion. The development of consumption is always pre-
ceded by some change in the function of the skin,
and by some concomitant irritation of the mucous
membrane of the intestinal canal and of the mucous pas-
sages; but the principal local irritation which precedes
an attack, is sometimes in the pleura or lungs.

Regimen of Asthmatic Persons.

The diet of asthmatics must always be regu-
lated according to the state of the system. In
the super-irritative species, a low diet should be
observed, and stimulants, particularly wine and
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\textit{The Gentleman} supposed all the symptoms which had thus far occurred, were the mere result of a sudden \textit{Protopus mersi}, and under this notion, he very strongly disapproved of the measures that had been taken, and on the score of the Opium particularly, he excited considerable agitation and anxiety, both of the patient, and the bystanders. According to his views (as subsequently stated) the introduction of a pessary was to be the most important means of relief. Notwithstanding his opinion, he prescribed twelve drops of tincture Opium, every four hours, and twenty of Spirit of Ammonia every two hours, and departed.

\textit{In another hour,} the customary \

\textit{family physician arrived. At this time,} according to the statements of the patient and attendants, there was still very little mitigation of the pain. The pulse was quick and gaseous, (or in other words, soft and weak, with considerable apparent fulness,) and as unfeeling as fifty five in a minute. The temperature, though declined not immediately near the normal of the human body, was considerably short of the natural standard. The countenance was motley, being principally very pale, but with a few livid patches; the lips were livid; the tongue was much contracted and pointed, and its surface was shrivelled, and somewhat redder than natural. There was no thirst, though the patient lay with the mouth open. The respiration was hurried and laborious, and resembled that of a person who had just been making violent bodily exertion. Another enema of half a fluid ounce of tincture of Opium in little warm water, was immediately administered, and three grains of Opium, in conjunction with half a fluid ounce of Spirit, and the same quantity of hot water, were taken into the stomach. As the external applications had produced no apparent effect, the Mustard was removed from the abdomen, and a plaster of the cerate of Lytta, (of \textit{P. U. S. A.}) of at least forty-eight inches surface, was applied in its stead, and Horse-radish leaves dipped in hot water, were renewedly applied to the whole extremities. The patient was directed to be taken every two hours subsequently, and a hot mixture of one part Spirit and two parts water, was advised \textit{ad libitum}. About 3 o'clock, P. M. the patient had become much easier, but still was not entirely free from pain. The frequency of the pulse was a little increased, but still it was preternaturally slow, being about sixty in a minute; the temperature was restored near the natural standard, and the whole surface was thickly sprinkled over with dark-colored petechiae; the respiration was less laborious, but was still extremely short of the normal standard, and there was no change in the tongue, but the patient had once vomited a small quantity of a transparent liquid, of a light grass-green color. A slight degree of talkative delirium had taken place, and on inquiry, a considerable sense of faintness and distress was complained of, at the stomach. An epispastis was now applied to the forehead, and another large one, between the shoulders; and in addition to what the patient was already taking internally, a mixture of ten minims of the \textit{tincture of the Arsenite of Potassa, and forty of the tincture of Opium, was directed at every intermediate hour between the pills. The Horse-
adish leaves were again renewed to the extremities. The epispastis upon the abdomen had not yet produced any perceptible effect. During the evening, rubefacient effects began to be produced, by all the external applications; but with the exception of a considerable stinging of the surface, there was no appreciable change of symptoms. The medication heretofore specified, was directed to be continued through the night.

July 7th. This morning the patient was found free from pain, and perfectly rational. The pulse remained stationary, the surface was of a natural temperature, the skin a florid color, the tongue was dilated and flabby, with the upper surface covered with a loose, slimy, dirty fur, and the edges and under surface livid; there was no thirst, and no irritability of the stomach, but still a great sense of distress and sinking was complained of in the epispastic region, which was uniformly aggravated by the slightest motion of the head.

At this time, both sides of the head were shavered, and large epispastics were applied, and the patient dismissed.

The same internal medication, that was directed the night previous, was continued, with the variation only of assigning a regular period for the administration of the Spirit, of which a tablespoon of a mixture one part Spirit, and two parts of brown sugar, was directed to be given every intermediate fifteen minutes, between the doses of the other medicines. During this day, and the succeeding night, the symptoms were kept pretty well at bay by this course, except that the patient vomited toward morning.

July 8th. The patient tolerably comfortable. An epispastic was applied to each wrist. Both the day and the night passed in a pretty uniform state.

July 9th. This morning, the symptoms still pretty much at a stand. The patient and her friends were now solicitous to have a discharge from the bowels, and though the abdomen was perfectly soft, and equally free, both from tension and unpleasance, yet the physician yielded to their solicitations, and permitted a laxative enema of decoction of bran with coffee, and molasses, to be employed. In about an hour this came away, but with only a slight discharge of fecal matter. Epispastics were at this time applied to the ankles, but in other respects, the same medication was herefore continued.

July 10th. This day the symptoms continued stationary, till the latter part of the night; and consequently, the medication was unchanged.

July 11th. The fifth day of the disease. This morning the pulse was found much more frequent, being a little upwards of a hundred in a minute. The skin was again considerably cool, and the fur of the tongue was loose. There was distressing singultus, and rejection of every liquid taken into the stomach.

At this time, as this change was considered as a critical effort, all medication was discontinued, except a pill consisting of two grains of Opium, every two hours. Common tea, and simple chicken broth, very hot, were allowed often, in tea-spoonful doses, and the patient was enjoined
to refrain as far as possible from all talking, and all motion, particularly of the head, as moving this part had hitherto invariably occasioned faintness, sickness, and sinking at the stomach. Under this course, a considerable improvement of all the symptoms was found, at 7 o'clock, P. M.: the pulse was less frequent and fuller, the skin was warmer, and the tongue was clear from fur, though quite red, the singultus and vomiting were gone, and the patient had some quiet and refreshing sleep. The night passed tolerably well under the same course.

July 12th. To all appearance, the patient was now pretty free from disease. The interval between the pills was protracted to three hours; and two fluid drams of the compound tincture of Cinchona, were directed every two hours. Improvement continued through the day and night. Toward morning, there was some manifestation of returning appetite, and food sat well. Milk-porridge was allowed, with Crackers soaked in Tea, Coffee, or Brandy and water, and likewise a little Cod-lis, soaked soft and picked fine.

July 13th. Symptoms nearly stationary. A laxative enema, prepared as the previous one had been, was now employed. This soon operated twice pretty freely, and occasioned considerable faintness, and increased weakness. On this account, an extra pill of two grains of Opium was given. The regular pills and tinctures were continued as the day before. This day and night, on the whole, passed tolerably well.

July 14th. The interval between the pills was this day lengthened to four hours. The tincture was continued as usual. The patient was now able to take sufficient food, and to sit up in bed. Passed the whole twenty-four hours well.

July 15th. Still improving. Took only four of the pills this day.

July 16th. The patient now able to walk about her room. Discontinued both the Opium and the compound tincture of Cinchona, and in their place substituted a tea-spoonful of a aromatic tincture of Gentian, in a glass of wine, every four hours. During convalescence, a great number of minute Carbuncles made their appearance, which did not disappear entirely, under about a fortnight. * (To be continued.)

VACCINE.

Anacrusth of the Aorta.—Lancorn presented to the Academy the spine of a man who died from an aneurism of the thoracic aorta. The aneurism had burst into the spinal canal, after having caused, by its pressure, the absorption of the bodies of the vertebrae, and caused death by compressing the spinal marrow. During the last six hours of his life the patient had paraplegia. This disease was suspected during life, and an examination of the thorax was made by percussion and auscultation—percussion on the back between the spinous processes and the posterior costal of the scapula gave a dull sound; the stethoscope being applied to the chest, it was found distinctly the natural sound of respiration, thereby indicating the existence of a tumor between the lung and the piaeties of the chest.

Two Fish Bones Found Embayed in the Duodenum.—At a late sitting of the Academy of Medicine, Dr. Henry read the case of an individual advanced age who, during the latter part of his life, had complained of various severe affections of the digestive organs, particularly of a diarrhoæa, which frequently returned. On examination of the body two foreign bodies were discovered in the coats of the duodenum; they were about half an inch in length, very hard, of a conical form, and resembled the one to the other; they very much resembled portions of the teeth of a comb, or the bones of one of the larger species of fish.

Tubercular Cavity in the Lung.—It is common to find the tubercular cavity in the lung, coated, or inclosed by cartilaginous matter, but the deposit of a layer of bone on the sides of the tubercular cyst is exceedingly rare. Lancern once met with one case of this kind. (Arch. Gen. Med.)

Caution with Respect to the Use of Stramonium.—Perhaps we may be excused for recommending an antispastic extract of this plant in cases of painful diseases of the rectum. An hospital surgeon of celebrity in this metropolis prescribed two drachms of the extract as a stimulant to an ailing patient, who, after taking the same ingredients, one into six suppositories; one to be put up the rectum occasionally, when much in pain. One was accordingly introduced; it dissipated, and was entirely absorbed. The patient became affected with symptoms resembling delirium tremens, and nearly died. —Med. Rev.

Insects in the Stomach.—In a paper by Dr. Tate, a patient who was suffering from gravel and debilitating illness, in consequence of having swallowed the larva of one of the dipterous tribe of insects, (Tipulidæ) commonly called dragon-flies, which haunt our ditches and stagnant pools. This larva, instead of passing into the stomach, remained interstitial in his stomach, and caused the disease, which was finally cured by its being ejected in a fit of vomiting. It is extraordinary, that animal life should have a place in a situation; but the paper mentions the larva of a carnivorous beetle, which not only lived, but moved briskly in strong alcohol.

Debility.—Dr. Armstrong in lecturing upon inflammation of the brain, remarked on the tendency, in some cases of delirium, of the patient to display, in his ramblings, his most predominant feeling; and quoted the case of a jurist's clerk, who during the progress of the delirium, was continuously engaged in swearing in witnesses one after another, very rapidly, and he invariably concluded in saying—'So help me God! Kiss the book! Give me a shilling!'

The Plague.—At the last sitting of the French Institute, M. Moreau de Tornes remarked that the alarming reports of the plague at Marseilles were without foundation, as it does not exist in Egypt, and had been communicated to many European vessels, of which five were French, and had lost part of their crews, but on the arrival of two of those vessels, only one man was affected by the plague, and there are hopes of his recovery. M. Moreau de Tornes remarks as a singular occurrence, that the yellow fever of the West-Indies and the plague of Egypt have been for the last time concerted on the same spot, by the simultaneous arrival of vessels from the West-Indies and Egypt at Marseilles.

Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston, Ending October 14; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 15.—William W. Motley, Jr., 2 years; Sarah J. A. Chamberlain, 14 years; Charles S. Towner, 36; Mary Coats, 29; Charity Miller, 5; Sally Wolcott, 43; Kitty Hudson, 33. 17th—Susan D. Wiggins, 18; Isaac Tiflett, 33; Stephen G. Howard, 21; Asa Wadsworth, 50; Asa W. H. Marston, 40; John P. O'Connell, 12; Betsey Bryant, 40; Frederick A. Pufer, 9; Mary Harrington, 33; Jane Spencer; Jane Barton, 20. 26th—William O. Hill, 22; Hannah Stickney, 23; 21st—George W. Hills, 22d; Elisha Scudder, 14; Harris Sutlings, 9, 90.

* Betsey Bowser had been working; and, while warm, laid down in a room newly plastered; she was taken with shivering; and died in a short time.
**OBSERVATIONS.**

**DR ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES**

**ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.**

**Treatment of the Various Modifications of Ophthalmia.**

(Concluded from page 94.)

A frequent form of inflammation is a subacute inflammation of the conjunctiva, occurring in delicate habits, namely, *strumen ophthalmiae*. In this affection there is a tendency to ulceration in the cornea, or about its margin, with an intolerance of light disproportionate to the degree of inflammation. When you find a patient with a skin hotter, and pulse quicker than natural, then local bloodletting has a good effect; apply the leeches to the temples or to the epigastrum. Certainly if the tongue be red at the tip I would rather apply them to the epigastrum. I do not think it is of so much importance where you apply the leeches, but I advise you not to apply them too near the eye, as I have known the puncture surrounded with a sort of serpiginous blush, which kept up the irritation in the eye. If you were to exert the lower lid, and find the vessels very much enlarged, and if you have a very steady hand, you might pass very delicately a small instrument along the conjunctiva lining the lid, and empty the vessels by making a line as fine as a hair; but take care to wash the eye perfectly clean of any coagula afterwards, as they otherwise become a source of irritation. Scarcification does harm, unless it be most delicately performed. After you have reduced the inflammation by local bleeding, sometimes great benefit results from blistering, provided they do not quicken the circulation of the blood; count the number of the pulse, and if you find it quicker after the blister has been applied, you may be sure that it does harm; if the heart’s action is increased, the inflammation is generally increased. The diet should be regulated by the presence or absence of fever. If there be fever, the diet must be of the blandest kind, such as arrowroot, gruel, or milk and whey. Sometimes it happens that this form of ophthalmia assumes an acute character, and becomes suddenly very severe. This was the case in a boy who had ulceration of the cornea, but I did not hesitate to bleed from the arm to approaching syncope, and immediately afterwards gave him a dose of opium, by which he recovered. When the fever is removed, the diet should still be simple, but animal food may then be allowed, and cold should be avoided by the patient till the strength be restored; for, as I before mentioned, cold and indigestible food is apt to occasion a relapse of the inflammation.

Another form of inflammation of the eye has been called common ophthalmia, or common inflammation of the conjunctiva, it is the same as the former, only it occurs in a strong subject, whereas the other occurs in a debilitated one. You must, in its treatment, be guided entirely by the degree. If it be acute, bleeding is the main remedy; you may take blood from a vein, from the temporal artery or by cupping; there is no advantage which any of these modes can be said to have over the other; but in inflammatory cases, where the excitement is not high, bleeding by leeches seems to affect the heart’s action, and local disorder, through a less quantity of blood, and hence their utility in mucous inflammations. You must be guided by the effect which the bleeding produces in acute common ophthalmia; you must bleed generally to approach syncope, and you will then perceive the conjunctiva blanched, and the pain will be removed; and if you exhibit a full opiate, as soon as the patient recovers from the faintness, you prevent the necessity of a repetition of the operation. A friend of mine, in the country, has been in the habit of bleeding patients in common acute ophthalmia, whilst they are standing, because syncope approaches then with the least loss of blood, but he takes especial care to lay the patient down before the syncope takes place.

A second remedy is the use of purgative medicines, as a combination of calomel and rhubarb, or jalap, followed by the saline purges, and where the inflammation returns you may give colchicum, say four or five grains of the powdered bulb every six hours, until nausea be induced, and then it must be withdrawn. I have had less occasion to repeat bloodletting since I used the colchicum. I recollect having seen a gentleman a few years ago, who had a violent attack of ophthalmia, for which he was bled largely, both generally and locally, and his health was so broken up that he never recovered his former vigor; the remedy proved nearly as bad as the disease. Now, from what I have seen, I believe that if colchicum had been given, he would have recovered much more rapidly, and without such repeated bloodlettings.

A third mean for the removal of this inflammation is a blister behind the ear, or the nape of the neck.

Fourthly, the use of lotions is attended with some advantage, and nothing answers so well, generally, as tepid water; sometimes, however, cold answers better; you cannot lay down any precise rule, when you shall use cold, or when tepid water, but you must consult the feelings of the patient; if the tepid water do not soothe, then apply the cold, but generally the cold increases the inflammation of the eye. There are various medicated lotions used in the treatment of acute common inflammation of the eye, but I believe that they usually do more harm than good. If you find the inflammation difficult to get rid of by the measures which I have just mentioned, you may give cautiously a combination of calomel and opium, until the calomel slightly affects the mouth, and then discontinue it at once. Nausacium, especially colchicum, and the tartrated antimony are sometimes very useful when the inflammation does not readily yield to the ordinary measures. But the colchicum is preferable if it be rightly managed.

Now, in regard to the regimental management, diet is the principal thing to be regulated; it must be bland in all these cases as long as the inflammation continues. Light must be excluded to a certain extent; but it is bad to keep the patient altogether in a dark room, because the admission of light to the eye afterwards irritates it excessively. The eye should be shaded, but not by anything tied closely over it, for that accumulates the heat; the shade should be at a little distance from the eye, like the fore part of a cottage bonnet—Another point to be attended to is, the equalisation of the temperature, in which you place the patient; it should never be higher than 62 degrees; the trunk should be erect, and the patient should not lay his head on a pillow on that side where the eye is inflamed, since the heat is then concentrated about the part, and the inflammation is thereby aggravated. When you have succeeded in greatly lessening the inflammation, when the pain, excessive redness, intolerance of light, and shedding of the tears, have subsided, then the conjunctiva is apt to assume a flabby appearance, and a chronic or atonic form of inflammation may continue for some time.—Now in this state of the eye, the vinum opii may be used with advantage, one drop at a time, morning and evening, being put very gently into the eye. Some washes may be used in this stage of the affection, often with benefit, as a grain of the oxymurano of mercury to four ounces of distilled water, with a drachm of the vinum opii, or the sulphate of copper wash, in the proportion of two grains to the ounce of water. When a chronic inflammation supervenes upon an acute, it requires the employment of the same measures, only used to a much less extent. But it is a common error with patients, when they think they are getting well, to neglect themselves, and the consequence is that the disorder returns.

The treatment of the next form which I have to mention, is the puressent ophthalmia, an inflammation modified by the intensity of a common cause, or by the peculiar property of a specific one. It varies in its character; it may be acute, sub-acute or chronic, or atonic; and as it often terminates rapidly by sloughing of the cornea, and other disorganization, so it requires to be actively treated. When it occurs in the adult, you must bleed at once to approaching syncope, and give a full opiate soon afterwards. Mr Peach has published some good observations in the Edinburgh Journal for 1807, as to the necessity of bleeding fully and decisively in this form, as it occurred in the army. He repeated the bleeding whenever a feeling of sand in the eye announced a return of the inflammation. You should at the same time, give purgatives, and combine with them colchicum, in the way formerly recommended, which are excellent. One peculiarity of this affection is, that it becomes rapidly chronic or atonic. This affection is denoted by the conjunctiva having a dirty and flabby appearance, while the patient becomes more affected by languor and insatiate. Then you must lay aside the active antiphlogistic treatment, give mild aperients, and use the alum wash, which in these cases is extremely
useful. At first, two grains of alum to an ounce of water is sufficient, gradually increasing the proportion according to the patient's feelings, in order to guide the alleviation or increase of pain. As cases of this kind may be communicated from person to person, the operator should take care to avoid any contact of the matter through his hands to his own eyes, or through the spurt of the lotion when he may inject it into the eye. He should also give all these directions to the attendants which may enable them to remain free from such a formidable disorder. As this affection most frequently occurs in young children, local bleeding is the best for them in the first instance, with the use of the astrigent lotion when the atomic stage commences. But in all such cases, see that the child has its natural food, the mother's or the nurse's milk; regulate its bowels daily, and be sure that it may breathe a pure atmosphere, which has great influence in such examples. In the advanced stages, bark is sometimes beneficial, especially the sulphate of quinine, where sloughing of the cornea is threatened or has occurred. But if you adopt the treatment before mentioned in the first instance, you will, in general, not only prevent this, but the occurrence of that granular state of the lids which is often exceedingly distressing, and remove every other previous treatment which has been recommended. Upon the whole, a subdued antiphlogistic one, with a very strict regulation of the diet, answers a better purpose than any other, as far as I have observed, aided by the use of the blue stone locally, or Goulard's extract.

Treatment of Iritis. This is remarkably simple; moderate bleeding, followed up by calomel till the mouth be affected, together with the local application of the extract of belladonna, are the principal remedies. If you wish to affect the system rapidly with calomel, you should bleed first, and give a saline purgative; and calomel then given, in small repeated doses, will remove the disorder very rapidly. The effusion of lymph takes place rapidly in the acute form, and less rapidly in the sub-acute form. Belladonna must be at the same time employed to dilate the pupil, because if adhesions should form in the contracted state of the pupil, the vision might be permanently impaired. But I must advise you to be particularly cautious, while you are giving calomel, to watch its effect, and take into account the constitution of the patient; whether, for instance, he has any hereditary, sexual, utal, or acquired weakness; for if he have, you must be careful lest the weak part suffer an injury from its operation.

When the strength is broken up by a mercu- rial course, a patient is very liable to have a relapse of iritis, or to an attack of inflammation in the weak organ, from exposure to mere ordinary causes, especially cold. Inflammation of the retina is occasionally met with, either by the opaque or the air, for this is acute even more rare. When it is acute it will require the employment of the most active measures in the shortest possible time, otherwise the sight will be inevitably lost. The chronic form is generally accompanied by some chronic disorder about the stomach, liver, and bowels, and that must be considered attentively in the treatment. Sometimes it is attended by a chronic inflammation of the brain, of which intolerance of light is a frequent symptom; but you will have no difficulty in detecting this combination if you recollect the symptoms which before enumerated as diagnostic of that affection.

VARIOUS PATHOLOGICAL ApPEARANCES OBSERVED IN NEW-BORN CHILDREN.

M. Bichet eau. report a case on the work of Dr Veron, containing three cases of phthisis affec ted, while in the uterus, with phlebitis, similar to what is observed in the adult. One of these cases, in which the child died twelve or fourteen hours after birth, presented, on the ouverture of the pleura, divers alterations of structure, clearly indicating a pleurisy: the effusion of a purulent fluid into the thorax, the formation of false membranes on the pleura, also a red and injected appearance of this organ. In the second case the peritoneum offered traces of inflammation, and in the third there had been inflammation in the liver, with formation of pus within this organ. M. Bichet eau, in his report, added other facts to those of M. Veron; he related the case of ligation and traction suffered by the fetus, and which M. Chaus sier has reported, some years since, a remarkable instance of. He mentioned also, on the authority of Messrs. Murac and Hussion, instances of foetal being born with vario las, &c. Many members also took part in the discussion, and related similar cases observed by themselves. M. Desormeaux related the history of a child which was born with all the marks of an intense enteritis of long standing, and which was cured after its birth. M. Husson has lately opened, at the Hotel Dieu, the bodies of two infants, the one stillborn at the seventh month of pregnancy, the other which lived but eight hours, and both of them had softened tubercles already suppurating, the first in the lung, notwithstanding its mother was quite free from any such affection, and in good health; the second, situated in the liver. MM. Dupuy and Andrulis, jun., have found similar tubercles; the first gentleman, in the liver of a young lamb, and the other in the same organ of the fetus of a rabbit. The membrane of the organ about these tubercules, was perfectly healthy.

ON THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PHENOMENA OBSERVED IN ACUPUNCTURE.

BY M. FOULLET.

The following article appearing in the highly respectable Journal de Physiologie for the last quarter, we could not fail to publish.

In a series of experiments made at the Hospital of St Louis, for the purpose of observing the effects of acupuncture, and also to discover what connexion electricity could have in these singular phenomena, many interesting circumstances were elicited deserving the attention of the physiologist and physician.

The apparatus employed was that used by Schwabeger, disposed, as usual, in such a manner, that the circulations of the thread should be in the plane of the meridian. The rubbed needle was supported by a thread of untwisted silk, and a glass bell guarded it from the air. The two ends of the thread passed out under the bell, one length extending some feet, for the purpose of being rolled up or uncoiled every way, without disturbing the body of the multiplicator, and to it was affixed a steel needle for the purpose of acupuncture. A thread of steel, two or three feet in length, was fastened to the other end.

In making this experiment, the needle was thrust obliquely into that part of the arm where the pain was greatest; the filament, or thread of steel, was then held in the mouth, thus forming a complete voltaic circle. In a few seconds the magnetic needle of the multiplicator became sensibly agitated, and the oscillations regular. An electric current was now traversing the whole of the thread of the apparatus; passing into the body of the patient between the mouth and that part of the arm wherein the acupuncture was made. The needle used in acupuncture should not be made of gold, silver, or platinum, for neither of these metals are capable of being acted on while they remain in the body.

A NEW METHOD OF PRESERVING ANATOMIC PREPARATIONS.

M. Bacoiron, of Nancy, has found the sulphate of iron (persulphate of iron) to possess very powerful astringent and antiseptic properties. This very cheap salt readily combines with the fluids, and preserves the soft tissues and fibres of animals from putrefaction, as well as destructive insects. A brain which had been steeped in a solution of this salt for three months, was capable of being dried in a warm temperature without undergoing the slightest putrefactive process. It was afterwards replaced in the solution, and kept for a long time, but without regaining its original softness. M. Bacoiron, in the commencement of the summer, immersed in a weak solution some muscles, and parts of a lung, liver, and spleen; five months subsequently he found them in the best possible state, possessing a part of their natural color. This gentleman also thinks this salt would be serviceable in embalming and preserving anatomical preparations in cabinets, the solution more or less concentrated, to be applied with a brush over the surface of the part to be preserved. The preparation of the persulphate is very simple; it is only to calcine in a crucible some of the green sulphate of iron, until it assumes a reddish color. It is then dissolved in water, filtered, and diluted to the strength required by adding river water.—Archives Generales.
mure water, and, at the same time, contributed to check the waste by perspiration and other discharges; for oleaginous substances are retained long in the body by their viscosity.

INFAMATION OF THE BRONCHIA.
A subsequent inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchi has been very common during the variable weather of the month past. This disorder is sometimes connected with chronic irritation of the mucous membrane of the intestines, or urinary organs, and with a hard and disordered condition of the skin; but it sometimes appears without this conjunction. Nature's mode of curing this complaint is by expectoration; but if left to be removed by this process, there is danger that it will lead to some serious affection of the lungs, and end in tubercular consumption, especially in young and delicate subjects.

A chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchi, is the most effectually removed by those measures which act simultaneously on the bowels and the skin; hence mild aperients and sudorifics, with a regulated diet, answer the best. Spreading the surface first with tepid and then with cool salt water, is one of the most useful preventives of a return of this affection. In some cases when it is joined with a disturbed state of the skin and mucous membrane of the bowels, more depends upon the right management of the clothing and diet, than upon mere medical prescriptions.

ANIMAL FOOD.
The solubility of the different kinds of animal food, and its fitness to be received into the stomach, are extremely various. The white meat of all animals, and the meat of young ones, though it does not digest the most readily, occasions the least irritation. These kinds of meat abound in jelly, which forms a large proportion of the membranes, tendons, and cartilages. It contains a considerable proportion of earth, and the elder an animal is, the greater proportion of earth is contained in its fluids. It has been considered that the flesh of birds is more easily digested than that of mammals. The parts of birds that are the most so, are those that are the most used, as the wings of wild ones, and the legs of the tame kind. Those birds that are oily, when full grown are gross and indigestible; though when young they may be easily dissolved in the stomach, and prove an agreeable and harmless nutriment.

The digestibility of the flesh of quadrupeds is modified by many circumstances. Independent of the age of an animal, its size appears to be of consequence; as the muscular fibres of large animals are coarse, and more insoluble than those of small ones. The mode of life, and exercise are also of importance in this respect. An animal that is left at liberty, and lives according to its own inclinations, is more nutritious food, though commonly less delicate, than one that is kept confined and pampered. A circumstance that greatly influences the digestibility of animal food, not generally noticed, is that called the proving state, which is, when the animal is improving in condition, the meat then being tender and digestible; when it is growing worse in condition, though equally fat and promising in appearance, it is not so soluble in the stomach, nor so readily assimilated. Meat that is kept till immediately before preparation commences, is more easy of digestion than at an earlier period. But if it be kept till this stage arrives, it is unhealthy and generally excites nausea, unless the stomach be strongly stimulated by a large quantity of the warmest condiments. Meat that has been preserved by freezing, and gradually thawed, is in the most suitable state to be submitted to the process of cookery. By sugar it is preserved nearly as soluble as by cold; by salt and smoke it is hardened and rendered more indigestible. The mode of cookery also affects the solubility of animal food. Boiling renders it less digestible than roasting; more digestible than boiling, more than baking or frying. Upon this subject a great variety of opinions have prevailed, and different modes have been recommended, according to the various inclinations of people. In cookery, physicians generally advise that which corresponds most with their own tastes. By roasting, baking, and frying, however, the oily parts are rendered empyreumatic and indigestible in a weak or disordered stomach. With healthy persons whose appetites are not degraded by pauperizing, and whose digestive organs are free from the effects of gormandizing, slight differences in the kinds of meat, or modes of cooking it, are immaterial; a good appetite will supply a great deficiency in one, and a healthy constitution and vigorous stomach will correct any evil tendency of the other.

REPORTS.

CASExS OF TYPHUS-SYNCOPEALIS.
By Thomas Miner, M. D.
(Continued from p. 96.)

Miss L. — S. — Eaat. 16, was in a state of predisposition for about a week, during which time she complained of languor, indisposition for exercise, head ache, pain of the limbs, nausea, occasional vomiting, and diarrhoea. For the last twenty-four hours of this period, both the body and the limbs were covered thickly with distinct, but dark-purple petechiae. In the course of this time, the patient, of her own accord, had taken one cathartic of Aloes with Calamina, which operated but moderately; and the day previous to the attack of her disease, another of Sulphate of Soda, which operated freely.

July 8th, 1825. About one o'clock, P. M., after drinking freely of Lemon-punch, which contained only a very small quantity of Spirit, she was suddenly seized with distress, and sense of faintness and sinking in the epigastrium, followed immediately by the most extreme pain in the lower part of the abdomen, much resembling that of perturbation, but far more severe. Upon the occurrence of these symptoms, the whole body and limbs quickly became cold, and insensible to the most powerful irritants, and sublimates, the countenance pale, sunken, and ghastly, the lips livid, the tongue contracted and pointed, but without fur, the respiration interrupted, and resembling that of a person just beginning to recover from apoplexy. There was likewise violent delirium, and complete inability to swallow, but notwithstanding this general condition, the pulse was perfectly natural in all respects.

The chance of the inability to swallow, no internal remedy could be employed. An enema, consisting of half a fluid ounce of tincture of Opium, diluted with a little hot Brandy and water, was immediately administered; frictions were thoroughly and perseveringly employed; and after their discontinuance, the whole body and extremities were covered with Horse-radish leaves, previously dipped in hot water.

In the course of two or three hours, there was an obvious mitigation of all the symptoms, though no individual of them had disappeared. Delirium, though difficult, was now no longer impossible; yet the muscles concerned in this process, seemed to be partially paralyzed, and when any effort was made to swallow, they acted irregularly and convulsively.

Strong epistaxis were now applied to the forehead, between the shoulders, and to the epigastric region; and the rebleachers to several parts of the body, were renewed. Forty minims of tincture of Opium, and ten of the liquor of the Arente of Potassa, were directed every two hours, and at every intermediate hour, two fluid drachms of official Alcoholic, in some hot liquid. In addition, Ginger, mixed with hot Spirit and water, and tincture of Camphor diluted with hot water, were administered in considerable quantities, as they could be got down.

Through the remainder of the day, there was a moderate, but gradual and regular alleviation of the symptoms, till about 10 o'clock, P. M., when a very irritable state of the stomach suddenly took place, accompanied with extreme epigastric sinking and distress, greatly hurried and panting respiration, very weak, soft, and small pulse, as frequent as an hundred and forty-benis in a minute, together with a cool, moist, and flabby skin.

The tincture of Camphor, the officinal Alcohol, and the Spirit, were now omitted, and two grains of Opium in pill, were given at every intermediate hour, between the regular doses of tincture of Opium and liquor of the Arente of Potassa. Epistaxis were applied in addition, to the ankles. Under this course, all vomiting soon ceased; there was quiet and refreshing sleep, consisting of short naps, from which the patient was easily roused, and the night passed comfortably.

July 9th. This morning, there was considerable mitigation of all the symptoms; the temperature was nearly as high as natural, the countenance was brighter, the epigastric distress and sinking were gone, the mind was tolerably steady, the pulse lower and fuller, the tongue covered with a light brown fur in the middle, and red at the edges, and the patechiae were beginning to disappear, (as often happens under such a course of treatment,) but there was such torpor of the bladder, as to occasion a total inability to void urine.

For the last mentioned symptom, strong epistaxis were applied to the inside of the thighs; but in other respects, the same medication that was employed the night before, was continued. The day passed comfortably, and with some further mitigation of all the symptoms; but as the torpor of the bladder still continued, an enema of decoction of Tansy and Ginger, to which was added common salt, was administered in the evening. This came away during the night, but without any fecal discharge of any consequence from the bowels, though with a free evacuation of urine.

July 10th. This morning there was no material change in the symptoms. The patient, however, was full as well as the day before. The sleep had been quiet and refreshing, and the patient was easily roused by the slightest means. One or two additional epistaxis were now applied, but no change was made in the in-
For Nitric Acid.—Operating in an inverse manner, the presence of a nitrate in a soluble salt may be ascertained. The gold should be put into nitric acid as pure and as colourless as possible, and then a fragment of this mixture is precipitated by means of a little potassium nitrate, added; sometimes this experiment requires many hours for its completion, if there be but a small quantity of nitrate present.—This variation of Dr. Wollaston’s test, may at times be usefully employed.

HYDROCIDE.—M. Larry presented to the sitting of the Royal Academy of Medicine, a young soldier who had been radically cured of hydrocide, without any other remedy but his book. The inflammation of the tunica vaginalis, than the temporary wearing a gum elastic sound in the orifice made for the purpose of giving passage to the semen.

CLOLURATE OF LIME.—M. Lisfrance, chief surgeon of the hospital. La Pitié at Paris, has successfully employed the chlorate of lime in preventing infection from bodies in a potrid state, and in curing simple cases of fistula. He has recovered several patients, on whom the usual remedies had no effect, and the application to burn with good results.

EXTENSION IN FRACTURES.—An improved apparatus for making extension in cases of compound fractures of the leg, has recently been submitted to the Medical Society of New-Haven, (Conn.)

MEDICAL LECTURES.—The Medical Lectures of the College of South-Carolina, will be resumed at Columbia, on the second Monday of November next.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 28; from the Health-Office Returns.

ATHENEUM:

For the SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES

November 1.

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Oct. 18.
OBSERVATIONS.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

The subject of Typhus Fever continued.

In my last Lecture I endeavoured to show that malaria, or marsh effusions, is the primary source from which typhus fever proceeds, under an intermittent, remittent, and continued form, and I adduced many facts which, taken in combination, render that inference irresistible; and I have not the smallest doubt that, fifty years hence, no medical man will question the opinion, whatever prejudices now may prevent many from impartially examining the grounds upon which it is founded. At the same time I endeavoured to show, that although, as far as my own observation has extended, malaria, and malaria alone, produced intermittent, remittent, and continued forms of fever, passing and repassing into each other, yet that a fever under a continued and typhoid, or typhus character, also arose, 2d, from a local cause, common, or tantum of air, apparently proceeding from, or separably connected with, the accumulated odor of the stools, urine, breath, and perspiration, as in the crowded walls of an hospital; and, lastly, that a similar form of continued fever also arose from the introduction of some peculiar matter, as in the case of certain punctures received in the dissection of bodies; or as in the case of the introduction of putrid animal or vegetable products, according to experiments made by Garvan on the lower animals. Towards the conclusion, I entered on the question of the contagious or non-contagious nature of typhus, and adduced many facts to show, that the belief in that doctrine was extremely questionable, leaving it, however, as a subject open to your own prejudiced and dispassionate inquiry. Having proceeded so far, I shall now enter upon the investigation of the symptoms, morbid anatomy and treatment of typhus fever; and having considered these, I shall endeavour, from the facts in my possession, to show the probable identity of typhus fever, yellow fever, and cholera.

Typhus fever, arising from malaria, assumes three different characters, and if I were to speak from my own observation, I should therefore say, that there is an intermittent typhus, a remittent typhus, and a continued typhus, in ad-

Intermittent Fever.

The first form of typhus is that usually called intermittent fever, or ague, which is distinguished by its having three successive stages, namely, a cold stage, a hot stage, and a sweating stage. In the first, or cold stage, the surface becomes universally cold and shivered, or rather contracted and drawn together like goose skin; the patient generally shivers, the teeth chatter, and he complains of uneasiness, more or less, in the epigastrium or back; his breathing is oppressed, his pulse small and weak, and sometimes he is affected by nausea, retching, or vomiting. He huddles himself, as it were, together, creeps towards the fire, or wishes for additional covering, and feels a great deal of languor and lassitude. The duration of this cold stage varies; it is sometimes short, sometimes long, and sometimes it passes directly into the hot stage. Towards the end of this stage the patient begins to perspire a little about his head, then on his breast, and lastly on the trunk and the whole body. After which, the perspiration ceasing in one, two, three, or four hours, the pulse and heat falling to the natural standard, the patient seems as well as before, except that he is a little paler, that his tongue is slightly furred, that he is somewhat sallower, has somewhat a feeble pulse, and a slight appearance of debility. The peculiarity of the intermittent fever, or ague, is this: there is a succession of the cold, hot, and sweating stages, which, after an intermission or absence of fever, return at certain intervals, by which is meant, the time occupied from the commencement of one cold stage, to the commencement of the next cold stage. Where the interval is twenty-four hours, the ague is called a quotidian; the patient, say, being seized with shivering this morning, he will be seized at the same time to

morrow. If the interval be forty-eight hours, then it is called a tertian ague; if the interval be seventy-two hours, then it is called a quadri- ague. It is stated, in systematic works, that the shivering fit of the quotidian occurs in the forenoon, of the tertian at noon, and of the quartan in the afternoon. This is certainly sometimes the case, but the period is very irregular, and the only distinction is that of the cold, hot, and sweating stages recurring once in the twenty-four, forty-eight, or seventy-two hours. Each of these is followed by what is called an intermission, by which is meant, that portion of time which intervenes between the termination of the sweating stage of the one paroxysm to the commencement of the cold stage of the next; in a word, it is that portion of time in which there is an absence of the fever. The internal physiol-ogy of ague is that of simple fever. There is first the stage of depression, or the cold stage; secondly, the stage of excitement, or the hot stage; and thirdly, the stage of collapse or sweating stage. In the first, the patient labors under a slight degree of venous congestion, which is followed by re-action, forming the second, in which the blood is so equally distributed about the body that no inflammation takes place, and the excitement is terminated by the sweating stage, without the occurrence of inflammation, all the organs of the body having been excited, but none inflamed; that is to say, intermittent fever exists without the occurrence of acute or subacute inflammation, for, as far as I have observed, if acute or subacute inflammation arise during the excitement of the hot stage, the fever then changes its type, and becomes remittent or continued; but the slow supereven- tion and continuance of chronic inflammation is not incompatible with the intermittent form of fever.

Treatment of Intermittent Fever.

With respect to the treatment, it is generally very simple. If called to a patient whilst in the cold stage, the object is to remove that, and induce the hot stage, which is best effected by the use of the warm air bath, of a full dose of opium with a little brandy and warm drinks. Where the air bath is not at hand, lay the patient between warm blankets, put bottles of warm water at the feet, and a bladder of warm water to the pit of the stomach. If consulted in the hot stage, you then must reverse this treatment: cover the patient but slightly, sponge the skin with tepid water, give an aperient, a little calomel with rhubarb, followed up by cold drawn castor oil, and cooling drinks may be then allowed; but when the sweating stage commences, the patient must be supplied with tepid and cold liquids, and when that stage has ceased, the skin should be wiped dry, the personal linen and the sheets of the bed should also be changed. But supposing that you are called before the commencement of the cold stage, say about half an hour before the return of the next cold stage, the best thing you can do then is to give an emetic, and after its operation a full opiate, the combined influence of which often prevents the return of the cold stage. But we will next suppose that you see a patient, for the first time, at the conclusion of the sweating stage, what then must be done? Simply exhibit about one grain of calomel with about three grains of rhubarb at night, and one or two drachms of cold drawn castor oil on the following morning; but during the intermission, give a gr. v. of the sulphate of quinine, thrice before the expected period of the return of the cold stage. If the bowels be kept regular by the mild measures already mentioned—if the patient remain at rest, and if the diet be spare and plain, the sulphate of quinine will always succeed; at least, I have used it in upwards of forty cases, and never known it to fail, except in a single instance, where a protracted ague was combined with an organic affection of the liver. An unexpected shock giv-
en to the nervous system, by good or bad news, will sometimes remove ague; and it is well known that, on similar principles, ague is often cured among the poor by the pretended efficacy of charms, which act powerfully on unformed minds; and hence, in ancient times of ignorance, most physicians were among the greatest humbugs in the world; but now, the general character of the medical profession is distinguished by honorable bearing, by that simplicity and purity which constitutes the true—the only dignity of medical character.

With the aid of the quinine, there is no occasion to give arsenic, but if you should ever use it, do so very cautiously, beginning with a few grains, of the liquor arsenical three times in the day, and very gradually increased. It should always be given after a slight meal, never on an empty stomach, for then it sometimes produces great irritation. But I may remark here, that I have cured several cases of ague without any acid at all, merely by calomel purges, by rest in bed, and a bland diet; but the cure is rapidly accomplished if, to this plan, you unite the employment of the quinine. Take care, however, not to continue the calomel too long, lest you affect the mouth. The return of the paroxysm has been prevented, keep the patient quiet for some time afterwards. It often happens, however, especially in London where individuals are predisposed to inflammation, that during the stage of excitement of an intermittent, that inflammation does arise, and then the intermittent fever becomes remittent or continued, according to the degree or extent of that inflammation.—Shakspeare, not only one of the most accurate but extensive observers of nature, seems to have been fully aware, that an intermittent form of fever passed into a continued form with all those symptoms attendant upon the latter, which we now appropriate to typhus, for he makes Mrs Quickly describe the last illness of Sir John Falstaff as a quotidian tertian at the commencement, what we now call a double tertian, winding up as a continued fever of the typhus kind, the symptoms of which are most beautifully and correctly enumerated, indeed, with all that coloring of truth which belonged so peculiarly to that great painter of human nature.

But though the remittent may arise out of the intermittent, yet it sometimes occurs as an original form of typhus arising from malaria, that form which shall be next described.

(To be continued.)

NEW METHOD OF TREATING COMPOUND FRACTURES.*

Every one, says Baron Larrey, knows the advantages which result from infrequency of dressing wounds, especially when the first dressings are judiciously applied. Many a time has he seen wounded soldiers carried some hundreds of miles, after battle, without having their wounds dressed—and when they arrived at their destination presenting the said wounds nearly cicatrizied, or in the fairest way for being so. These facts led our author to employ somewhat similar procedure, not only in simple, but also in compound fractures. This plan consists in leaving on the first dressings throughout the whole course of the cure. The bad effects, he observes, of daily dressing the wounds in compound fractures, are exceedingly great. These dressings disturb the limb, and increase the inflammation of bones, ligaments, and muscles, often causing high traumatic fever or abscesses, in some of the internal visceras, as the liver and lungs. The Baron's indications are: first to scarify, or more properly speaking to dissever all such wounds, if contused, of foreign bodies, broken bones, &c. incising those parts that are put too much on the stretch—cleansing out all extravasated blood and pus, and then leaving the parts as clean as possible. The limb should then be laid on a part of the apparatus properly prepared, and the fractured bones nicely adjusted. The edges of the wounds are next to be brought as much together as possible, by compresses with holes in them, (au moyen de liges fenetres) and spread with ointment, over which lint is to be laid, and then more compresses soaked in some styptic glitinous liquor.

These dressings should be so adjusted as to fit with great exactness to every part of the limb's place. The compresses over the place of splints. When the compresses are all on, then the dressings should be finished by an eighteen-tailed bandage.

These dressings should be allowed to remain on during the whole period of the cure.—The Baron asserts that, with proper constitutional treatment, the inflammation will be very trifling, and hardly ever such as to require the shaking of the bandages. If this be the case—if no swelling, tension, and inflammation result from this mode of managing fractures, we have no doubt of its utility. But we can hardly persuade ourselves that so little swelling can follow any mode of dressing, so closely adjusted to the limb as the above, as not to require a change when the inflammation comes on. This, however, is a point which is easily ascertained in practice. Two cases in illustration are related by the Baron; but they need not be detailed here.—Johnson, July.

SCROFULA.

This disease first shows itself by inflammation and soreness in the eyes and eye-lids, and by chaps, and thickness of the lips; also by a swelling of the glands of the neck, behind the ears, and in various other parts of the body. These tumors at length break out and discharge a white curdy matter. It most commonly attacks rickety children, and others up to the age of puberty. These affections are not generally attended by pain.

Children inherit this disease from their parents, but in many cases it would not be safe to make its appearance, if the subjects of it were not exposed to moist and impure air, as in damp habitations, and large manufactories; and to unwholesome diet, which is too common among the poor: also to the want of personal cleanliness, salutary exercise, sea-bathing, and warm clothing.

The patient ought to be removed to a dry and airy situation in the country, or, in fine weather, he may take a short voyage at sea. His clothing ought to be warm, a flannel shirt and drawers being worn next the skin. Moderate exercise, by riding or walking, without fatigue, should be taken twice or thrice a day. If the patient is too young or weak to take exercise, his body should be rubbed all over with a flax-brush, or with a piece of flannel. He ought to be in bed every night by 8 or 9 o'clock, and up, in the open air, by 5 in the morning.

His meals ought to be scanty and frequent; the diet consisting of light and digestible animal food, and the same made into nourishing broths and soups. The diet ought to be frequently changed according to the desire of the patient, and besides the above, should consist of eggs, light puddings, arrow-root, isinglass, vermicelli, and well-baked bread. If vegetables are eaten, they must be quite fresh; but the less the better. If the stomach can bear it, milk may be drank, but the beverage should generally consist of whey, or toast and water. An hour before dinner and supper, a glass of good port wine with a slice of light cake, or crust of bread ought to be taken. The warm bath, cold bath, or seawater bath, are to be daily used, according to the convenience, feeling, and strength of the patient.

The bowels are to be kept open by a daily draught of seawater, or a small portion of Epsom salts. Sea-water is clearly seen where the obstructions of the glands of the neck and viscera are recent; also in obstructions of the liver, and in tumors of the joints in general, not suppurated. When the glands become softened by the internal use of the water, then bathing, with a course of Peruvian bark, will prove efficacious.

NERVOUSNESS.

There may be a state of general nervousness, without its being referable to the existence of any particular local affection of the nervous system, there is reason to believe from the state that is sometimes induced by great losses of blood, or by a want of sleep, in which pulsations are perceptible in almost every artery of the body, and accompanied by excess of sensibility. It may also originate from grief, sorrow, religious fear, or vivid hopes of attaining some desirable object, with apprehension of disappointment. This condition, as far as it depends on physical causes, is the most readily removed by passive exercise in the open air, tepid shower bath, light nutritious diet, and in some cases a moderate allowance of wine, or some other diffusible stimulus, and the occasional exhibition of an anodyne and laxative. Nervous sensations are often combinated with serious affections of the brain, heart, stomach, liver, or intestines, which renders it important that the medical adviser be assiduous in his examinations, lest he overlook their true cause, and put the patient upon a treatment, the reverse of that which ought to be adopted.

Another thing in this class of disorders, in which the good of the patient has been too much overlooked, is the use of language, a mere sound of technical jargon being often substituted and made to pass for good sense or professional tact, to the exclusion of an honest and intelligible explanation of real circumstances; by which not only the patient, but many of the professional are alike deceived. Honest and well informed practitioners may do much good by habituating the minds of their patients to a right manner of putting questions, as to the real nature of their disorders, and the sensible conditions of structure upon which they depend; for as pathology has become greatly simplified, it may be easily comprehended so far as to be sufficiently familiar to the public, and to banish
that mystery of words, by which many who are totally ignorant of everything that is substantially useful in the principles and practice of physic, attain to great consideration. There are many in the profession whose knowledge of disease is the most superficial, who have learned and kept the confidence of the most intelligent classes, by a cast of technicality and sophistry, the art of concealing ignorance and humoring popular prejudices at the same time; so little do the public possess the means of estimating the comparative merits of men to whom they confide their health and their lives.

REMEDIES FOR HUNGER AND THIRST.

That smoking tobacco gives relief to those habitual pains of the stomach which appear to arise from the irritation of the gastric secretions, is well known. The like effect is sometimes produced by increasing the flow of saliva. Dr. Percival relates the case of a gentleman, who used to masticate for many hours daily, a piece of lead; which, being neither hard, friable, nor offensive to the stomach, suited his purpose, he thought, better than any other substance. He continued the custom for many years, deriving great ease from it, and suffering no sensible injury from the poisonous quality of the metal. On mentioning this fact to a navy surgeon, the Doctor was told, that the sailors, when in hot climates, are wont to mitigate thirst by rolling a bullet in their mouths. When a scarcity of water occurs at sea, Dr. Franklin has advised that the mariners should bathe themselves in tubes of salt water: for in pursuing the amusements of swimming, he observed, that however thirsty he was before immersion, he never continued so afterwards; and that, though he soaked himself several hours in the day, and several days successively in salt water, he perceived not, in consequence of it, the least taste of saltiness in his mouth. He also further suggests, that the same good effect might, perhaps, be derived from dipping the sailors' apparel into the sea; and expresses a confidence that no danger of catching cold would ensue.

REPORTS.

CASES OF TYPHUS-SYNCOPEALIS.

BY THOMAS MIXER, M. D. (Continued from p. 96.)

Mr. R.—F. at 23, for several years previous to the attack of the disease, had complained of languor and weakness, and had been pretty much destitute of appetite. During this period of predisposition, he took two catarrhics, one of which was Saltate of Soda. This operated freely, only the day before he was seized. The night immediately previous to his attack, he spent in watching with a patient, sick of the prevailing epidemic.

July 10th.—While walking in the street, between 12 and 1 o'clock, P. M. he suddenly observed a companion, that he felt as if intoxicated, and almost instantly fell to the ground. He was immediately carried into a house, and medical aid was called. On the arrival of the physician, which was about 1 o'clock, P. M. the patient was still in a state of entire insensibility; and his condition, to the eye of a bystander, resembled a person laboring under a serious Apoplexy; or more exactly, one recovering from a state of Asphyxia from drowning. The surface was pale and cold, and covered with a clammy sweat; the eyes were fixed; respiration was slow and interrupted, and seemed as if carried on entirely by mere voluntary exertion; pulsation at the wrist was barely perceptible, and there was total inability to swallow.

After wiping, and thoroughly rubbing the skin, epistaxis were immediately applied to the forehead, sides of the head, and between the shoulders; and nearly the whole of the body and extremities, were covered with sinapisms. As no tincture of Opium was at hand, an enema, consisting of a fluid ounce of Oil of Turpentine mixed with the same quantity of Oil of Olives, was immediately administered.

In about two hours, the skin was raised nearly to its natural temperature and softness, and the pulse acquired so much force, that its beats were easily ascertained to be about fifty in a minute. There was now no stupor, but considerable delirium had taken place. The eyes had a fixed and vacant stare, but when the patient was spoken to, he immediately raised himself, with a frightful expression of countenance, somewhat resembling that of a rabid person. There was, at the same time, considerable deafness.

A mixture of thirty minims of tincture of Opium, thirty of strong tincture of Lytta, and three of the liquor of the Arsenite of Potassa, was next directed to be given every two hours, and at the intermediate hours, a pill consisting of an grain and a half of Opium, with two grains of Calomel. Spirit and water were preserved for drink. During most of the remainder of the day, and the subsequent night, there was violent delirium, but.

July 11th, at 8 o'clock, A. M. the patient was found free from this symptom, though in its stead, there was a great sense of distress and sinking in the epigastrum. The pulse was now very soft, weak, and frequent, the skin cool, and both the body and extremities covered with petechiae, of rather a florid color. The countenance was at the same time pale and sunken, the tongue was pale, and of a bloodless appearance, and coated with a thick but slimy and dirty fur.

At this time, an epistaxis was applied to each wrist, an occasional use of Camphor, and a free use of Spirit was directed, and the Opium, both in substance and tincture, with the liquor of the Arsenite of Potassa, as heretofore specified, was continued. The tincture of Lytta, and the Calomel, were however abstracted, the former on account of a copious and exhausting diuresis, which it evidently produced; and the latter, because it was now deemed injudicious, and believed never to have been indicated. Neither of these articles appears to have been proper in this case. At 6 o'clock, P. M. the patient was again delicious, and much inclined to coma, but the epigastric sinking and distress, seemed to be somewhat less. The pulse was very weak and soft, and the tongue as last specified.

The Spirit, and the Opium in substance, were continued as heretofore, but the dose of the tincture of Opium, was increased to forty minims, and that of the liquor of the Arsenite of Potassa, to ten minims; and an epistaxis was applied to each ankle.

July 12th. This morning, no material change perceived in the symptoms. Additional but small epistaxis, were applied to the legs and arms, but in other respects, the same medication was continued. In the course of the day, considerable strangury took place.

July 13th. This morning, the symptoms still stationary. New epistaxis were applied to the inside of the thighs and arms, but the same medication, in other respects, was continued. At evening there was pain in the bowels, which was soon followed by an urgent diarrhoea, ten or twelve discharges happening in the course of the night, through four extra pills of Opium, and one of the compound of four grains of Opium in powder, were given during this time. This quantity of Opium kept the patient from sinking under these profuse evacuations. Judging from the effects of Calomel in other cases, it is believed that the diarrhoea was to be ascribed to that article, which, it will be recollected, was used at the commencement of this case. Through this night, the patient was generally wakeful, but when he did sleep, he was profusely; in consequence of which, the skin became considerably cooler. On the 14th, the tongue became clean, and the delirium disappeared.

July 14th. This morning, the patient was found in an extremely languid and weak state, but at the same time free from most of the easiness, which had hitherto attended his disease. The diarrhoea had abated, but was not entirely gone. The same internal medicines were directed that had been regularly employed the day previous, and an enema of four grains of Opium in powder, was directed after every discharge from the bowels that might take place. Two only were needed before evening. During this day, the skin became nearly of the natural warmth, the tongue became clean, but was very red; and the pulse was about 80 in a minute. The night was passed comfortably, under the same course. No opiate enema was needed.

July 15th. This morning there was considerable improvement in the general condition of the patient, and he was considered so free from disease, that the tincture of Opium, and the liquor of the Arsenite of Potassa, were omitted, and half a fluid ounce of the compound tincture of Cinchona, was directed in their stead. The same medication in other respects was continued, and the day and night passed well.

July 16th. The patient still improving. The intervals between the doses of Opium, were now protracted three hours, and the same was done with respect to the doses of the compound tincture of Cinchona.

July 17th. Still improving. The same medicines continued, but at intervals of four hours.

July 18th. Still better. The same medication, but at intervals of six hours.

July 19th. Still better. All the medicines hitherto employed, were now abstracted, and the patient was put upon a mixture of one dram of Cinchona in powder, with a glass of wine, four times a day. The petechiae are not yet entirely gone, though they are now fast disappearing. The patient now shows a good appetite, walks about, and is rapidly recovering his wonted strength. Discharged. (To be continued.)
CURIOUS CASE OF (CARCINOMATOUS?) DISEASE OF THE HEEL.

Under the sweeping term Carcinoma, a variety of malignant diseases are classified, without any reference to the true definition of Carcinoma: the disease, however, in the case we are about to describe, has some of the essential characteristics of Cancer.

W. Fry, atat. 43, a sailor, was admitted on March 31, under the care of Mr Tyrell. At the time of admission he had an ulcer about the size of a sixpence on the back part of the heel; the edges of the sore were eroded, the discharge was offensive, and the integuments immediately around the part felt tuberculated or knotted. The patient stated that the ulcer was occasioned by his pulling a piece of skin off the heel three months before he came to the hospital: he had tried various remedies with a view of healing the ulcer, but all aike failed in producing any amendment. The knotted bodies in the integuments round the ulcer continued to enlarge; and from what I could see, the present mass of disease about the heel is of the size of a small fist, and consists of a number of round tumors of different sizes, (the largest being of the size of a walnut,) some of them in a state of ulceration, and others approaching to it; these round bodies are very hard, and are so numerous, that at their bases they appear united; but as they enlarge are quite distinct and separate. When the tumors ulcerate, an exuded sore is formed with shelving edges, as if a piece of the tumor had been cut out; the discharge is fetid, and the sores frequently bleed profusely; the glands in the groin are much enlarged, and the abscesses on the inside of the leg are indurated. The patient's health has suffered much from the disease: he looks cachetic, and has much pain, which prevents him from sleeping.

The treatment employed when he was first admitted into this hospital, was the application of soap plaster and bandage to the heel; afterwards, a strong solution of nitrate of silver; but now applies to the heel every day a solution of Bichloride of mercury, and he takes five grains of Pummer's pill, and one grain of opium every night.

We are not aware of any surgical author who has treated of this peculiar form of disease; it is indeed a disease of rare occurrence, and very few cases have been seen at the Borough hospitals: two or three cases have fallen under the care of Mr Travers, in one of which, we believe, amputation below the knee was performed, and fungous tumors arose from the stump; the final result of this and the other cases we do not know. We may not be felicitous in the description of this disease, but there is such a peculiarity in its appearance, that, which, if it is seen by any one of the profession, he will scarcely admit of verbal description.

It has been said this disease originates from a peculiar structure, which may be found between the tendo achilles and bones of the heel; but we have seen one case in Guy's Hospital in which the disease was in the wrist: it probably has its origin from aperiotic or fascial structure: like fungus hematomata it bleeds profusely, but does not grow in the rapid manner peculiar to that disease, and moreover, the tumors have a scirrhus hardness. —Loetfi.

VARIETIES.

DESTRUCTION OF FLOWER.—The following have been given as simple methods for destroying the flower

1. Take a teaspoonful of flour, putting it into a wine glass, which fill up with clean water, stirring it up well; allow it to remain for half an hour, then decant the milky fluid off the top, which consists of starch in a state of solution. To the remainder add a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid (cold), and repeat the above process until the flower is destroyed, or it will continue to grow.

2. Take a small quantity of the suspected flour, put it in an iron spoon, pass the flame of a candle with it; the powder will burn black; but if it contain any of the above mentioned ingredients, the white particles will be visible.

CARTREE FOR ARRESTING VARICOSE.—M. Velpean read a paper to the Royal Academy of Medicine, tending to show that if the varibulous pustules were cauterized within the first two days of the eruption, their further progress was arrested: that if it were done still later, after the first seven days, or, instead of cauterizing, mere marks were hereafter prevented. He supported his assertion principally on the authorities of Mr. Beauchard, and others, at the same time relating a case in which he had observed the disease, and M. Velpean used was a solution of the nitrate of silver, into which a stilette was dipped, and then applied to the centre of each pustule.—Academie Royale de Medicine.

ANIMAL GELATINE.—A French chymist, Mr D'Arcet, has discovered that animal gelatine may be obtained from bones and ivory, by treating them with weak mercuric acid, which after a slow process, be turned into fancy articles, either having the appearance of tortoise-shell or rosewood; the process is the same as tuning hives. Tanned gelatine will soften in boiling water, with an alkali, as does horn or shell; in this state it is an excellent material for making artificial arms and legs, and it is used with liquid shell. The same chymist has made a kind of paper by grinding animal gelatine, as they do rags in common paper; the material obtained is a strong and useful kind of parchment.

WINE IN MENORRHAGIA.—At a late sitting of the "Attenue de Medicine," M. Goupil, M. Martinet, M. Raffay, and M. Hacquet, have discovered that the administration of potash in large doses, (that, from a scruple to a drachm or even more, three or four times a day,) arrested menorrhagia after the usual means had been tried without effect. It will be interesting to hear the result of this experiment, and to know whether the success of this medicine, in similar doses, when employed in cases of hemoptysis. As it may be given with acids in large doses, in pulmonary hemorragias, without interrupting other means, as blood-letting, &c. It ought to be borne in mind by the practitioners, on such occasions.

SANITARIO PRACTICE.—The warm water system of the celebrated Saugrando has been lately revived in France, even to the letter. It was proposed by M. Cadet de Vaux, and put to the trial by M. Duchassain, a physician at Guise. It is for the cure of gout and rheumatism, some of the cases being of very hot water (de l'eau tres chaude) taken in the course of 12 hours—that is, a glass every quarter of an hour. M. Duchassain averts, that he has been eye-witness of the case, performed in this way. Four cases are related in illustration, in the Gazette de Santé.

OCHALATE OF LIME.—The Verduin Commis Farmer, who has the monopoly of the bank of diseased and old oak trees, has been found, by M. H. Bracost, capable of yielding 33 1-2 per cent of crystallized oxalate of lime; various other lichens, on which he experimented, afforded almost as large proportion of this salt; on which he remarks, in the Ann. de Chimi.

The oxalate of lime, is to these and analogous cryptogamous plants, what carbonate of lime is to corollae, and phosphate of lime to the bony structure of more perfect animals.

ACCPERIMENTATION.—It appears that the needle made use of at La Fête is constructed of steel, but rendered ductile by heating it in the flame of a candle, and then suffering it to cool slowly. Care is taken to avoid the trunks of vessels or nerves—nor is it ever attempted to introduce into any article of which wax, as has been ridiculously and falsely reported in this country. The experiment, indeed, was tried on animals, but the results were not such as to encourage such a hazardous proceeding in the human subject.

DROPSY OF THE LIVER.—Dr. R. S. Dorsey, of Perryville, (Missouri) has given an account of a case of dropsy, which was attended with the most alarming symptoms, which was attended with the most alarming symptoms, which was attended with the most alarming symptoms, which was attended with the most alarming symptoms. The patient was tapped for the first time on the 10th of March, 1821. The ascites proceeded from disease of the liver.

PORT WINE.—The following is to be a chymical analysis of a bottle of cheap commodity, sold under the denomination of port wine: spirits of wine, 2 ounces; cider, 14 ounces; sugar, 1-1/2 ounces; alum, 2 scruples; tartaric acid, 1 scruple; strong decoction of logwood, 4 ounces.

EPSON SALT.—Epsom salt is produced entirely from salt, or the evaporation of sea water. Dr. Henry, of Manchester, has discovered a process for preparing it from magnesium limestone, and has reduced the price one half.

An EREDEPT PHYSICIAN.—A physician, and one of his pupils, were speaking of a medicine, in the preparation of which, according to some pharmacists, a false notion is introduced to a schoolboy. One student inquired what was meant by a sand heat? The doctor very gravely replied—"Are you such a novice that you have not learnt that? Why it means the temperature of sand, in a hot day, is raised by the best of the sun."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, ending November 5; from the Health-Office Return.

Baths, for November, 15; Joseph Snowden, 35; Child of George Carpenter. 30th. Mary Cary, 32; Thomas H. Stone, 38; Sarah Bass, 54; Mary Coburn, 25, 31st. Ann Abrams, 10; William E. Bussell, 6 mo; Elizabeth Knights; John Johnson; Dorothy May, 67; Child of Wm. McCork. November 3. William Wilson, 20; Isaac Whittemore, 2, 29; Jarius F. Pratt, 3; Joseph N. Adams, 47; Frederick W. Langdon, 15; Child of John Cary. 3d. Hannah Melcher, 47; James Martin, 35; William Gray, 75; Sarah Blood, 67; Child of Hugh Murphy; Sally Dennisson, 33; 4th. glasses, 10 mo; Jane Bald, 14. Mary Ann Robb, 19 mo; Caroline Pratt, 4; 5th. Rhoda Nelson, 65.

Cancer in the Bones, 1—Insanity, 1—Stillbirth, 1—Obstruction in the Heart, 1—Diabetes of the Heart, 1—Old Age, 1—Consumption, 4—Typhus Fever, 3—Group, 2—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Brain Fever, 1—Dermatitis, 1—Measles, 2—Teething, 1—Infantile, 1—Died by Clothes taking Fire, 1—Intemperance, 1—City Poor, 2.

To Physicians.

MARSHE & CAPEN, (at their Book and Stationery Store, No. 302, Washington-Street,) have from time to time, carried a large stock of Portable Electric Machines, peculiarly constructed for Physicians. These Machines being very light and closely incased together with all the necessary apparatus, cannot fail to suit the Faculty, in every respect.

They have also, Thermometers proper for Chemical, Botanical, Surgical, Breeder's, Dissilicates, Sugar-refiners, Diggers, Bathing, and Marine purposes, made in the neatest manner. Oct. 11.

FOR SALE, a valuable SULPHUR BATH, with stove complete. Inquire at the Office of the Medical Intelligence. Oct. 19.

Batemar's Improved Truss, FOR sale at Reed and Howard's, No. 44, Hanover Street, at the head of Elm Street.
OBservations.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

TYPHUS FEVER.

(Continued from page 102.)

The Remittent Fever.

The remittent fever, as I have just stated, sometimes arises out of the intermittent, and at other times it appears from the beginning, under its true characters. Now what are the characters of the remittent fever? In the first place, the cold stage is absent. The patient grows hot most frequently about the afternoon or evening; the heat increases to a maximum generally for several hours afterwards, the pulse becoming quick, the face flushed, and the eyes bright, though they always have a heavy unintellectual expression. Usually about four, six, or eight o'clock in the morning, the fever abates, and entirely leaves the patient in from of six hours. In that remission there is either a moist warmth of the skin, or a perfectly cool skin without moisture; the tongue being then moist, or having a fur of the dirty white or yellowish color. His pulse, compared with that in the febrile paroxysm, is not only many beats less, but is much softer, and the patient feels altogether more comfortable, except in those cases where an excessive collapse follows the hot stage. In this remittent form, the brain or its membranes, the bronchial or intestinal lining, are all more or less affected, as shall be subsequently explained. But meanwhile, what is the treatment of this remittent form of fever? It is, like that of intermittent, by no means complicated. Give the patient from about a grain and a half of calomel, with three or four of rhubarb, and on the following morning administer about one, two, or three drachms of cold drawn castor oil; let him have rest in bed, and adopt a purgative diet; surround him with a fresh atmosphere; do all these things, I say, properly, and he will almost invariably recover. But if he should complain of aching in the head, a few leeches may be applied to the temples; if there be any uneasiness on pressure made over the stomach or intestines, and if the tongue be red at the tip and edges, then let leeches be applied cautiously to the epigastrium or abdomen, till the pain on pressure be removed. Six or eight leeches, repeated once or twice, will generally be sufficient to remove, with the other means, that low degree of inflammation which is so apt to exist on the mucous lining of the small bowels. If the remissions be distinct, if the skin be warm and moist, or cool without moisture, if the pulse be soft and slower, and if the surface of the tongue be moist, then give the sulphate of quinine in small doses, two or three grains every hour, while the remissions lasts. This will not improperly arrest the fever at once, or mitigates it remarkably. Yet at all times, the physician must watch its effects, for if it increases fever here, or pain, it ought to be withdrawn. Before I knew the value of quinine, I gave an infusion or decoction of bark in such cases, in which the powder almost always does harm, by irritating the mucous membrane of the stomach or intestines. In the remittent form of fever, some symptoms of inflammation exist, yet in a slight degree, as not to preclude the use of the quinine infusion, or decoction, provided the remissions be distinct.

There are some cases of remittent fever which require the use of wine. The patient, for example, is seized by an excessively hot stage, which occurs in the evening, and which continues through the night; suddenly in the morning, it leaves him with a pallid face, a sunken eye, a blueish lip, a weak respiration, a cold skin, and a feeble, hot, thready pulse. If the patient be not supported by wine under such circumstances, he sinks and dies with great rapidity, so overwhelming is the stage of collapse. When the collapse commences, you must keep the patient that you must lay him between warm clean blankets, apply bottles filled with hot water to the feet, bladders of the same to the epigastrium; you must tuck the clothes closely under the chin; you must admit plenty of fresh air, and give wine moderately till the pulse rises, and the skin becomes warm. One example of the utility of this practice occurred in the Borough about two years ago; a pupil had typhus under a continued form, and his sister under the remittent form. She had been ill several days, and when I saw her she was on the point of expiring, in that stage of exhaustion or collapse which has just been described. I gave her wine, repeatedly, till the pulse became expanded and the skin warm, and it certainly saved her life. The removal of the collapse is the thing to be accomplished; that being done, do not continue the wine, lest you give rise to re-action of a febrile kind. Some years ago, when I was physician to the Fever Hospital, a man who had had the remittent form was brought in apparently expiring, his face and his pulse glazing, and even his face glazed pale, his breathing weak, short, and every now and then interrupted by what the nurses call the dead rattle. Some wine was poured down his throat, he took it back afterwards, and recovered. Never, therefore, give up any patient as hopeless.

Continued Typhus.

The remittent form of typhus fever often passes into the continued form; but the continued form of typhus comes on originally in many cases. When the continued form of typhus commences as such, it usually begins in one of three modes; in each the patient generally has a cold stage, sometimes slight, but sometimes as severe as in the intermittent form of fever. That passing away, in the first continued form the skin becomes excessively hot and dry, the pulse round and resisting; the tongue whitish or yellowish, but moist; the face flushed; the eye bright and ferrety; the respiration hurried, and the brain or membranes are so much affected as to indicate an acute inflammation there, if no other part be similarly disturbed. This first form commences as a most acute fever, and this is the form which is seldom met with except in young and robust subjects. The symptoms before specified, go on for five or six days, if they do not terminate fatally before that time, and then the fever undergoes, gradually or suddenly, a remarkable change. The heat begins to fall, the pulse becomes comparatively soft, and compressible, the lip and cheek assume a dusky appearance, his breathing becomes weaker, and the tongue grows dry, and is covered with a brown varnish. The principal cause of this change is the occurrence of that special bronchial affection with which typhus is invariably attended, and which I shall afterwards more particularly explain.

The second form of continued typhus is intermediate. The fever is less ardently developed, the skin is not so hot, the pulse is not so rapid and resists, and the head is less intensely affected. The tongue for several days remains moist, and is coated with a whitish or yellowish fur on the centre, but its tip generally redder than usual, and an accurate observer might detect some traces of irritation of the mucous lining of the bronchial, there being usually some cough occasionally, and the other signs. This form, however, also undergoes another change, generally in six or eight days; the heat begins to fall, the pulse becomes softer and more compressible, the tongue is at length varnished with a brownish fur, and the patient's strength is much diminished, for he lies on his back, and pants or heaves when he answers questions.

The third form is the extreme. Now what takes place in five, six, or eight days in the first and second forms just described, takes place at the very onset of the third form. The special bronchial affection is developed almost immediately, the tongue growing glazed and brown in twenty-four hours after the attack; the pulse soft and compressible, the voice weak, the position sunk, the nervous and muscular power prostrated. In this, for this is what the older writers called typhus gravior; but I confess that I do not know what is meant by the terms typhus milder and typhus gravior, except that these words imply a difference in degree, having no allusion to that internal pathology which is the cause of all the varied symptoms.

These are the three forms which continued typhus fever assumes under ordinary circumstances; and as there is hardly any affection which makes a stronger general and local impression upon the system, it is necessary, before proceeding further, to give an insight into its morbid anatomy, for without a knowledge of that, you will never be able to comprehend any thing like its true pathology. If you were to consult most of our nosological and systematic works, you would be informed that the patients died from typhus, a summary and precious piece of information. The barber, in the Arabian Tales, in examining the body of Hunchback, observes, that 'no man dies without a cause;' but had he lived now-a-days, he would have found that he was mistaken; he would have found that many persons now die without a sufficient cause, that they die, in short, nosologically; die of cer-
tain mysterious sounds, breathed by the mighty magicians of speculative absurdities. But the truth is, that no disorder leaves more extensive traces after death than typhus fever.

(TM continued.)

RESPIRATION OF THE SPIDER.

A house spider was placed by a gentleman on a small platform in the middle of a glass full of water, the platform being about half an inch above the surface. It presently made its escape, as might have been anticipated by suffering a thread to be wafted to the edge of the glass. The person who witnessed this, suspecting it might have been assisted by the water, being so nearly on the same level, poured some of the water away, and placed the spider as before. It descended by the stick that supported the platform, till it reached the water, but finding no way to escape, it returned to the platform, and employed itself in preparing a web, with which it loosely enveloped the abdomen, by means of the hinder legs. It now descended, without hesitation, to the bottom of the water, when the whole of the abdomen with a web, containing a bubble of air, probably intended for respiration, as it evidently included the spiracles. The spider, enveloped in this little diving-bell, endeavoured on every side to make its escape, but in vain, on account of the slipperiness of the glass; and, after remaining at the bottom about nineteen minutes, it returned, apparently much exhausted, as it coiled itself close under the little platform, and remained afterwards without motion. - London Scientific Gazette.

CHICKEN SEED IN PURULENT OPHTHALMIA.

The ophthalmia, which had prevailed epidemically from the year 1816 among the troops in the garrison at Brussels, was, at the close of the year 1821, observed to exist in only one individual. In the month of June 1822, the epidemic appeared with fresh violence, and the cases were very severe from the commencement. The symptoms at the origin and progress of the complaint were such as are usually observed in severe cases of purulent ophthalmia, and therefore need not to be described here, the principal object being to show the efficacy of the chicken seed, a remedy long celebrated among the Egyptians.

1. Fourteen patients, with simple inflammation of the conjunctiva, were perfectly cured, from the third to the eighth day from the appearance of the complaint.

2. Four cases, in which chorioménia existed from the commencement, were perfectly cured between the fourteenth and twentieth day.

3. Nine patients, in whom the inflammation had become chronic and who had in vain tried several other local applications without effect, recovered under the employment of this remedy from the tenth to the twentieth day.

4. Two persons, with inflammation of the sclerotics, who had tried mercurial frictions and sparse diet without any benefit, were cured in eight days by employing the chicken seed.

5. Only in one case did any symptoms of irritation follow the use of this seed.

6. In every case, with the exception of the last, the conjunctiva soon recovered its natural appearance; the discharge of pus and mucus gradually disappeared without leaving any visible alteration in the structure of the membrane.

The seed was used in two methods; in the first, it was reduced to a very fine powder, with some white sugar, of which a grain was introduced between the lids every night. In the second form of using it, sixteen grains were made into a sort of emulsion, with four ounces of water, ten drops of which were put into the affected eye every night and morning. Dr Habbuer is inclined to give the preference to the first mode, and, contrary to what might be expected, he asserts that the powder was used in the fourteen cases of simple inflammation of the conjunctiva, and in the four patients with chorioménia, with the most complete success, and that the emulsion answered best in the chronic cases, as well as in the cases of inflammation of the sclerotics.

The antiphlogistic treatment was adhered to in the treatment of all these cases, and the only topical application used was a little cold water.

OPERATION FOR ARTIFICIAL ANUS.

Hernia is a complaint of frequent occurrence in France, of much more frequent occurrence than in this country, and there we need not be at a loss to account for the more frequent production of that disgusting and miserable accident an artificial anus. M. Dupuytren, first surgeon of the Hotel Dieu, has recently introduced a mode of operating, to remedy this deformity, which has been attended with very great success. In a paper which M. Dupuytren lately read to the Institute, he stated, that of forty-one patients who had come under his observations, twenty-nine were radically cured of this loathsome deformity; nine have been so far relieved that only a small fistulous orifice remained, which allowed of being closed artificially by a compressive bandage, without giving much trouble or pain. Of the whole number only three died. The operation is performed by an instrument, which he terms naresur, which is sufficiently explained, but from the account which is given of it in the report it appears to embrace a portion of the intestine, and causes it to slough by the pressure which it occasions.

ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE NERVES.

The anatomical structure of the nerves was unknown to the ancients. Praxagoras, the first who distinguished them from the tendons and ligaments, placed their origin at the termination of the arteries, and from that circumstance they were supposed to be the canals which circulated the animal spirits. Hierophilus divided the nerves into such as had a searviser, and such as had a moving power; the first set he considered hollow, and containing a fluid, which was the cause of motion. Raim, to whom we are indebted for almost all that we know of the structure of the nerves, demonstrated that each nerve consisted of two different parts, the mucicula and the pulp, and he pointed out the manner by which they might be distinguished. By washing the nerve in diluted nitric acid, the mucicula was destroyed, whilst the numerous medullary filaments, with their numerous interconnections, remained. Back, who traced these filaments for a considerable length, found that numerous anastomoses existed between them, and that those fibres, which at the commencement of the course of a nerve were uppermost, became gradually the central, and afterwards the inferior fibres. By plunging the nerve into an alkaline solution, the pulp becomes destroyed, and the membranous covering alone remains, being distended with air, and thus dried. The nerve appears to be made up of numerous little canals crossing and anastomosing with each other, and having, according to Becollard, somewhat the look of a reed. Here then finished all that we know of the minute anatomical structure of the nerves; it was clearly shown that each nerve possessed an enveloping cellular tissue, and a pulp, or medullary fibre. It is not necessary here to relate all the conjectural notions which have, from time to time, been propagated respecting the more intimate structure of the nervous system.

The unsatisfactory hypotheses which prevails induced M. Baroiss to institute a train of experiments, by which he has ascertained that there exist on each side the pons asperius and the pula, a central canal. By the help of some very fine tubes, such as are used to inject the lymphatics with mercury, he has succeeded in injecting the nerves with the same metal. Several nerves were exposed in living animals, and in animals recently killed, and when divided transversely, the point of a very fine tube was introduced into its centre, and the mercury allowed gradually to insinuate itself into the substance of the nerve. It was found, that in several places a little column of mercury could be traced through the centre of the nervous filament, extending the substance of the ganglia, and making its appearance again in the nerves on the opposite side of the ganglionic structure.

The inferior cervical ganglion was injected, and the mercury was afterwards traced to the cardiac plexuses. Some of the branches of the great sympathetic were filled with mercury, which found its way to the semilunar plexus, and to the branches proceeding from them. The preparations, accompanied with detailed account of the several experiments, have been presented to the Academy of Sciences, and Cuvier, Dupuytren, and others are to make a report thereon.

EXTERNAL IMPRESSIONS ON CHILDREN.

All violent impressions on the senses and the bodies of children, ought to be carefully avoided. It is injurious to toss them about with rapidity in the arms. Loud crying, or shouting in their ears, discharging fire arms, presenting glittering objects to their view, as well as sudden and too great a degree of light, are equally injurious. Thus infants are frequently stupified and afrighted; the brain is shaken in the most detrimental manner; and hence arise the most distressing consequences. On such occasions, we cannot bestow too much attention on the conduct of wet-nurses, or servants. A child ought to enjoy the most perfect rest and composure, if it be our wish to promote sound sleep, regular growth, and consequent prosperity.

It is equally detrimental to both nurse and body, when infants are continually carried about on the arm of the nurse, teased with loud soliloquies, prayers, or other mechanical prattling;
and especially when they are incessantly pro-
vided to display their anger or revenge. Such
rude conduct is necessarily attended with pernicious
effects, while it prevents the spontaneous ex-
pansion of infantile powers, blunts their senses,
and is ultimately productive of nervous and mus-
cular debility. The tender nerves of children
experience a violent stimulus from impressions
to which an adult may easily be habituated, or
which do not sensibly affect him.

NEW VACCINATING INSTRUMENT.

We have examined a Vaccinating Instrument, re-
cently invented by Dr. Wooster, which entitles him to
much credit. His mode of introducing the vaccine
matter, we believe to be preferable to that which has
been commonly practised; and his manner of preser-
ving it may prove to be a matter of much importance.
From documents before us, it appears that many re-
spectable physicians in different states, have furnished
Dr. W. with letters of recommendation, which induced
him to persevere in spreading the vaccine virus, under
the most discouraging circumstances. It is with plea-
sure that we notice the friendly and liberal disposition
manifested by the physicians of Boston; many of whom
have already patronized him by purchasing his instru-
ments, and others, we understand, have consented that
he should vaccinate in the circles of their practice.

It is to be hoped, whilst physicians and experi-
enced vaccinators are tendering to the public one of
the greatest blessings ever bestowed on mankind, that
the people will not be so regardless of their interest as
to accept it

It is but a short time since the small-pox was raging
in a number of our cities, and we believe it now pre-
vails in New-Orleans, and is liable to be scattered on
our sea-board. Dr. W. has a small vaccinating Instru-
munt, which we would recommend to physicians in the
country, as the fresh vaccine matter goes with it.

PERIODICAL INFLUENCES UPON THE CONSTITU-
TION.

In a medical view, the ages of the human species
seem to be divided into regular periods. In the first
stage the form begins to appear, and the character of
the mind to be developed; the next stage is the period
of puberty; the stage following this, so establishes the
state of the mind and body, that it constitutes the
period of manhood—and the man becomes legally exoc-
tracted from servitude and pupilage, and is required to
assume the responsibilities, and perform the duties of a
citizen. Other periods are enumerated by septen-
arians, and with considerable propriety; though the
discipline is uselessly refined, and mixed with numerous
fancies. Every age has its diseases, and Hippocrates
says, that those of youth, continuing after puberty, are
difficult to cure. In infancy and old age, many object
the use of medicine; but as in both these stages
there is great infirmity, so there is great scope for the
practice and improvement of the medical art; neglect
indicates equal ignorance and inhumanity—as many
disorders may be radically cured, and others palliated;
inancy may be aided in its progress, and the infirmities
of old age retarded in their advances. The periods
which mostly influence our constitution, and often
prove fatal, are those of teething, puberty, and the per-
eiump from twenty-one and twenty-eight, when the
constitution has not yet attained its firmness; the time
of the cessation of the menses in women, and the period
when the generative power decays or is lost in men.
On this foundation was established by the ancients the vis-
ionary doctrine of climacterics. The conditions most fa-
orable to the prolongation of life, are those of cold
and dry countries, moderately fertile, so as to require
exertion, and the practice of the wholesome rules of
temperance and economy.

It is remarkable that some families are favored with
the peculiar privilege of longevity; while others soon
perish and prematurely decay. Those whose minds and
bodies evolve slowly, are often long lived than those who
annihilate us by an early vigor, and energetic
spirit. Early and astonishing acquisitions of very young
men, in different arts and sciences, seldom lead to ac-
knowledged excellence in more advanced age. San-
guenine temperaments are said to be generally longer
lived than the bilious or melancholic; but this leads
upon a doubtful theory. Very tall, or very short peo-
ples, seldom, it is said, reach to a great age: but a person
rather short than tall, rather thin than fat, muscu-
lar, firm, and with a full chest, has apparently the
fairest claims to longevity. An active life with little
uneasiness, a dry, free air, early hours, a mind regular-
ly engaged, but not exhausted, a cheerful disposition;
frquent changes from county to town, a diet, regular
rather in time than in quantity, with moderate pass-
ions, and a temperate use of the good things of life,
chiefly contribute to an extended, healthy old age.

EXTRANEOUS BODIES IN THE EAR.

Some short time ago, an eastern paper men-
tioned the case of a lady died in great ago-
lony from the head of a pin having accidentally
lodged in her ear as she was picking it. An-
other paper, in noticing this event, remarks, that;
"the pin should be kept in mind, that if any casualty
of this kind occurs, human skill can afford no
relit—i it beyond the reach of medicine,
before the power of the surgeon, to afford a
remedy."

There can be no sort of difficulty in extract-
ing any such foreign substance from the ear,
provided the membrane of the tympanum be
not lacerated. Let the wax of the ear be soft-
ened by injections of warm water, and then
the foreign body can easily be brought out by the
careful use of a bent probe. This certainly
could not be the position of the pin's head
that caused the lady's death.

The question then assumes this shape. Can
a small extraneous body be extracted from the
cavity of the tympanum? It has been done, and
that too, by very simple means. Let the pipe
of a large syringe be introduced into the ear,
and the piston be drawn up—now in this way,
the stream of air is caused to pass through the
eustachian tube into the cavity of the tympanum,
and thence into the mouth of the syringe; and
this rush of air will carry the foreign body out
of the cavity into the syringe. This is a new
mode of extracting such substances; but it is
a simple one, and every practitioner of medicine
or of surgery has at his command at any mo-
time.

It should not be used when the membrane of
the tympanum is entire for reasons too obvious
to mention. It not unfrequently happens, that,
by incautious probing of the ear, when the for-
eign substance lies embedded in the wax, the
membrane is ruptured. This is an accident that
has happened more than once, and one which
every one who pretends to the slightest know-
ledge of the anatomy of the ear will be careful
to avoid.—Columbian Star.

REPORTS.

CASES OF TYPHUS-SYNCYTOPALIS.

THOMAS MINER, M. D.

(Continued from p. 103.)

Miss A—C. aged 30, had for a long time
labored under Ayer's Dyspeptic or Hepatic Ma-
rasmus; and for several days previous to the at-
tack of her disease, had been more or less in at-
tendance, both night and day, upon sick friends,
beside labored unusually hard the day immedi-
ately preceding, in washing. On that day she
took (without advice) a common cathartic dose
of the tincture of Aloes and Myrrh, but it pro-
duced no operation upon the bowels.

July 15th, in the morning, she was suddenly
attacked with pain in the heel, which by parox-
ysms, was extremely violent. During the re-
mission of this pain, she had hysterical delirium,
with incessant loquacity, and alternate laughing
and crying, without adequate cause. There was
no medication at all till 5 o'clock, P. M., when her
physician arrived. At this time, her cheeks
were of a deep livid color, while the rest of her
face was preternaturally pale; the skin was pre-
ternaturally cool, and rather dry; the tongue
was covered with a slight thin fur, and was con-
tracted and pointed; the respiration was like that
of a person who had been making violent
bodily exertion; the pulse was weak and soft,
and about fifty beats in a minute. Strong epis-
pastics were immediately applied to the forehead,
between the shoulders, and on each wrist. Horse-radiad leaves dipped in hot wa-
ter, were applied to the feet and legs, and forty minims of tincture of Opium, five of the
liquor of the Arsenic of Potassa, and five of
sirong Spirit of Pepper-Mint, were given every
two hours. Hot Spirit and water, and hot tinc-
ture of Camphor and water, were given ad li-
bium. In this way, about half a pint of Spirit
was taken in twenty-four hours. Under this
medication, the patient became much more com-
fortable, and continued so for the remainder of
the day and night. The next morning, she was moderate
and easy, the temperature of the skin rose near-
ly to its natural warmth; the pulse, though still
weak, was as frequent as seventy-five in a min-
ute; all pain was gone, the delirium was much
less, the tongue remained as the day before, but
there was so great torpor of the bladder, that
the patient was entirely unable to void urine by
voluntary effort.

July 16th. This morning, the symptoms was
found much as they had been during the even-
ing and night. Episptastics were applied to the
inside of the thighs, for the relief of the tor-
por of the bladder; but in other respects,
the same medication was continued. Dur-
ing the day, the symptoms continued pretty
much at bay, and before evening, the torpor of
the bladder was relieved. During the night,
there was considerable restlessness, and more
delirium.

July 17th. This morning, the tongue was
dark red, much dilated and flabby, and destitute
of fur, the skin was considerably cooler, there
was a profuse and exhausting sweat; the pulse
was soft and weak, and about a hundred and twenty in a minute. Epistaxis were now applied each ankle, and two fluids of officinal waters were directed to be taken every hour, in addition to the previous course. Through the day, the symptoms remained stationary. At the evening, there was considerable epigastric sinking. At this time, an extra dose of two grains of Opium in pill, was administered. During the night, there was but little epigastric sinking. The other symptoms remained stationary.

July 16th. This morning, no new symptoms, and the previous ones, were pretty much at bay.

The same medication was continued. Till 12 o'clock, A. M. the patient was without, with the exception of the frequent desire for water, which was directed to be taken three times in the day. At 12 o'clock, A. M. the patient vomited, but without any distress. At 10 and 11 o'clock, P. M. she suddenly sunk into a deep coma, which was mistaken by the attendants for fainting. At this time, the skin was cold, and drenched with sweat, the lips were purple, the respiration was interrupted, and resembled that which is entirely voluntary; there was effusion into the bronchia, throbbing or palpitation of the carotids, and other large arteries, but the pulse, though seemingly full on a superficial examination, was extremely weak and rapid. An immediate application of Mustard to the chest, and an internal mixture of

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

liver was found very much enlarged and indurated. On cutting into it, a common sized sewing needle was found included in its substance, and the cut was filled with a dark crust of fat. This was removed, and is now in the possession of the attending physician.

There can be but little doubt that the disease, in this case, was produced wholly by the irritation of the needle, which had probably been swallowed, though the time and circumstances of the accident are not fully known.

An accident, similar to the preceding, occurred in this city about two years since.

A little girl, six or eight years old, was attended with much difficulty and difficult breathing. At length, hectic fever set on, and in a few weeks she became exceedingly reduced, and her dissolution seemed rapidly approaching when, during a violent paroxysm of coughing, she threw up from the throat a piece of slate pencil, of nearly an inch in length, which had been lodged in the larynx, ar windpipe, for several months. The cough, difficult breathing, and fever, immediately subsided, and she has since enjoyed perfect freedom from these complaints. At the time the pencil was coughed up, it was recollected that it was swallowed while at school, several months before.

WASHINGTON STAR.

VARIETIES.

CROTON OIL.—Professor Chiera, of St. John's Hospital, Turin, has chosen a novel mode of using the croton oil, which may prove useful in cases in which the disease resembles much more closely than ordinary, epilepsy, says he, the good effects of using croton oil in the form of liminum, mixed with aqua, or olive oil. Two or three drops of the oil, mixed with either of the substances just mentioned, and rubbed into the abdomen, have succeeded perfectly well in procuring copious alvine evacuations. In the case of a joiner who had been subject to epileptic fits for some years, and who was afterwards attacked by apoplexy, one drop of the croton oil was given in a solution of gum, and many copious purges were procured; the pain in the head was relieved, and since that period the epileptic attacks have not returned.

SEGREGAL CASE.—A gardener's wife in Vienna, was, at the age of 24 years, seized by a violent head-ache, which continued for several years, and drove her almost to desperation. She was last induced to try the snuff as a remedy, in order to promote a discharge of mucus. Happening to have some astringent in the house, she mixed it with the snuff, in the supposition that it might increase the effect. The consequence was, that a worm was discharged from her nostrils, similar in appearance to the grub. The circumstance induced her to continue the use of mixed astringent, with snuff, to which she has continued up to the present time, and many copious purges have been procured; the pain in the head was relieved, and since that period the epileptic attacks have not returned.

New Work.—Dr Emerson, of Philadelphia, is about to put to press an edition of Cariicment on Venereal Diseases, with Notes by himself. The attention which this gentleman has given to medical subjects, will render the work a valuable assistant to those who wish to study the branch of surgery; the latest and best information on the subject may be expected from this edition, which in itself is extremely valuable, as containing the most matured experience of Mr Cariicment, as well as that of the American editor, on whose judgment and experience entire reliance may be placed.

LABORATORY.—We understand that the Laboratory erected by, and conducted under the superintendence of Dr Oliver Parsons, is now in successful operation;

and the proprietor is now ready to receive orders from manufacturers, for the productions of his Laboratory in carrying on their business.

Aqua fortis, oil of vitriol, and other acids are produced at this establishment, which, for goodness of quality, will be competently cheaper than those imported; and since the indefatigable proprietors have met with many obstacles in establishing his Laboratory, we hope, now it is under way, it will be patronized by the community.

—PROVIDENCE PATRIOT.

IMPERFORATE ANUS.—A curious case of this congenital deformity was related by one of the members to the French Academy of Medicine. The patient lived six months, during which time no faces were passed from the bowels, and on examination after death, it was found that the intestine terminated at five inches above the anus. The coccus and colon were enormously distended, as might be expected; the mucous membrane, lining them was strongly injected, and almost of a rose color. This case shows how impossible it is to succeed in all cases, by operation, in remedying this defect of formation. —Revue Medicale.

PREPARATION OF RAZOR STROPS.—Mr Thompson, an instrument maker, London, has found that the edges of the blades are sharp, and—Glue a piece of paper to a common calf skin leather on a slip of wood, and when dry rub it with a piece of French chalk—that called by mineralogists, stannite—then, with a piece of the finest lump black lead that can be procured; and thus the existing French chalk and black lead, at last, one after the other, till sufficient cost or bed is formed on the leather.

ZINC AND MANGANESE.—Exist in several places in the United States. Manganese ore is abundant in Plainfield, Mass.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending November 12; from the Health-Office Returns.

November 4.—N. Wilson, 21; Bethia Allen, 39; Morris Pendergast, 57; Mary Ann Cassidy; Gustavus A. Poifer, 7; Charles Blake, 26; 6th.—Catharine Hollis, 14 mo; John Comeris, 30; Nancy St. John, 57; Thomas Humphries, 37; Lydia Sturgis, 32; Edward Ford, 34; Mary Clark, 2; Eliza Stone, 32; Richard, 59; Daniel Ford, 64; Mary Clark, 42; Child of Michael Williams; Hannah Tucker, 73; Harriet Newel Bryant, 9. 25.—Charlotte Low, 25; John Thaxter jr, 3 mo; William Sharp, 101. 10th.—Ann Pickett, 25; Nancy Stackpole, 28; Lydia Thayer, 90. 11th.—Hannah Allen, 7; Sarah Cecilia Parker, 26; Ephraim Reed, 23. 12th.—Isabella Tucker, 13.

TYPHUS FEVER, 3—Consumption, 7—Jaundice, 1—Infanticide, 1—Inflammation, 1—Cancer, 1—Droopy in the head, 1—Delirium, 1—Stillborn, 1—Pleurisy, 1—Canker in the bowels,

ATHENEUM: OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

FOR NOVEMBER 15,

JUST published, by Josiah Cotton, No. 104, Washing-

CONTENTS.—The Wife and the Witch.—The In-

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OBSESSIONS.
DR ARMSTRONG’S LECTURES
THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

TYPHUS FEVER.
(Continued from page 106.)
Marked Anatomy.
If you examine the body after the fatal termination of typhus, you will find the following appearances where the affection has run its accustomed course. The pia mater is considerably surcharged with blood, the arachnoid milky or opaque in some places, and an effusion of a serous fluid between them, and sometimes spots of lymph, while the substance of the brain itself, when cut, exhibits more bloody points than natural. Hence we infer, that inflammation of the meninges before named and of the brain had existed during life. These appearances within the cranium are very constant. The spinal cord, or its membranes, have been found in a similar state in all those cases where I have seen it laid open, but the difficulty of doing this has prevented me from making very many such examinations. The bronchial lining is always very much injected with dark blood, and besmeared by a sticky secretion or varnish, and if you take a sponge and wash that sticky secretion off, the bronchial lining becomes of a brighter red, showing that the air then comes freely in contact with the blood, which it had not done before. This secretion is generally less copious than that of common bronchitis, but more tenacious, and therefore more effectually excludes the air. If you extend your examination further, the liver will often be found gorged with black blood, especially where calomel had not been given, the superior and inferior mesenteric, with the splenic veins, being also loaded with blood. Sometimes the liver exhibits vestiges of previous inflammation, but that is rare. The lower part of the rancous lining of the ileum is always inflamed, and generally ulcerated, when typhus has terminated after or about the third week. Occasionally the mucous membrane of the stomach is red, thick, and pulpy, and also that of the colon. Some of the mesenteric glands are red and swollen. The affection of the pia mater, arachnoid, and brain, that of the bronchia, and of the ileum are constant, and if to these you unite the dry husky state of the skin, which usually attends protracted typhus, you have at once a pathological view of those conditions which require attention in practice. Besides, these appearances explain all the symptoms of continued typhus. The inflammation of the membranes of the brain, and of the brain itself, is marked by all those signs which I before enumerated, and I might make the same remark in reference to the affection of the spinal cord, of the bronchial lining, and of the lining of the ileum. The diagnosis of continued typhus lies, first, in the combination of the symptoms, namely, that combination which indicates the co-existence of the affection of the brain, bronchial and intestinal lining, together with a disordered condition of the skin, and usually a rattled secretion of bile; and, secondly, the diagnosis lies in that remarkable change which sooner or later occurs in that perfect development of the special bronchial affection attended by a brownish varnished tongue, sore gums, and teeth, a dark subcutaneous empyemathum, a dusky lip, and either a dusky cheek, or a livor mixed with palor; while the pulse grows soft, the respiration weak, generally with some cough, the heat becomes more subdued on the surface, the patient lies upon the back, becomes more muddled in the brain as the disorder advances, and, in fatal cases, at last insensible. As far as I am capable of judging, the special bronchial affection exercises a great influence by preventing the common changes of blood, which is found darker than natural; no typhoid, or typhus fever of the continued form, ever existing without the special affection, which is usually insidious at first, but becomes more and more marked in the progress of the disorder. It would, however, appear, that some morbid condition of the blood must exist from the beginning, else why in all cases should the brain, bronchial, and intestinal lining be uniformly affected? If other structures be found inflamed, it may be considered rather an accident than a constant occurrence.

The first form of continued typhus sometimes terminates fatally in a few days, so does the third, but the second, or typhus fever of the continued form, ever existing without the special affection, which is usually insidious at first, but becomes more and more marked in the progress of the disorder. It would, however, appear, that some morbid condition of the blood must exist from the beginning, else why in all cases should the brain, bronchial, and intestinal lining be uniformly affected? If other structures be found inflamed, it may be considered rather an accident than a constant occurrence.

The treatment of Continued Typhus.
Now as to the treatment of continued typhus, you will at once anticipate that it must be varied according to circumstances. There is one thing very dreadful in the treatment laid down by the writers of nosological systems, which is this—that they prescribe merely for a name, such as scarlatina, measles, hooping cough; affections which they describe under one uniform character, as if they were the same under all circumstances, while the pathology is so purely symptomatical that we have little or no insight into that anatomical pathology which is so truly valuable. Why does any one asks me probably, do you treat typhus fever? I suspect immediately that he is a nosological physician, otherwise he would put a succession of particular questions. In the first form, nothing can save the patient’s life but decided bleeding at the beginning, but be sure to recognise that form. In it the skin is very hot and dry, the pulse rapid, and hard as a cord, the tongue moist, but furred, and the brain actively inflamed. Last year, a solicitor, a friend of one of my pupils, was attacked in this manner, and in three days we were obliged to bleed him to the amount of 108 ounces of blood before the violence of the phrenitis was removed. This is the largest quantity which I have ever ordered to be drawn in genuine typhus. In this particular case, it ran a mild course afterwards. In another similar instance, about 50 ounces of blood proved sufficient, and sometimes less will reduce the cerebral inflammation, provided other auxiliaries be properly employed. The head should be elevated, the hairy scalp shaved, and cold applied to the whole surface of the head, so long as it remains hotter than natural. The bowels should be daily opened by calomel and rhubarb, assisted by cold drawn castor oil. The apartment should be kept cool and rather dark, and the diet should be nutritiously well balanced, with some urgency of the fever last. The period is very brief in which venesection can be benefically used in the first form of continued typhus; only, if I repeat, while the skin remains intensely hot, while the pulse remains expanded and hard, while the tongue is moist, and while the brain or some other part is acutely inflamed at the same time. These symptoms must guide you, and be sure therefore to remember them perfectly, otherwise you may commit the most serious mistakes. When the special bronchial inflammation has once fairly set in, when the tongue has become dry and glaze, and the pulse, soft and compressible, the heat less high on the surface, the breathing so weak that the patient pants and heaves when he answers questions, then be extremely cautious how you abstract blood, even locally, never, in short, do it in that mode without attentively watching its effects; for if you bleed the patient at that period too repeatedly by leeches, the consequences may be mortal. Mild aperients, fresh air, quietude, and a bland diet, with cooling drinks, are the measures upon which, at that time, you must mainly rely. (To be continued.)

GROWN OIL IN INFLAMMATION OF THE BOWELS.
Professor Morichini, of Rome, wishing to ascertain whether the use of this remedy might be permitted in inflammatory affections of the bowels, prescribed it in two cases of gastro-enteritis. They were both females. One drop of the oil was mixed with an ounce of simple syrup, and administered in two doses, with an interval of two hours between each. The first patient did not experience any sensation of heat in the fauces. Two hours after, the bowels were moved and during the night thirteen stools were procured, which produced much prostration of strength, but no pain comparable to that which she had suffered. The other patient, who was twenty-five, was ordered by the Professor, had fever, with acute pain and tension in the abdomen, hard pulse, flushed countenance, anxiety, nausea, and constipated bowels, for seven days; although some mucus, with oil and common salt, had been thrown up. At 3 o’clock she was bled to the amount of twelve ounces; her abdomen fomented, and an oily embrocation used, besides glysters of decoction of marshmallow.
low and oil. At 8 o'clock in the evening, one drop of the oil of croton, in an ounce of syrup of marshmallows, was ordered to be given in two doses, with an interval of two hours between each, provided the first produced no effect. The first dose, however, procured seven evacuations, which followed each other rapidly. The woman slept afterwards, and though some fever remained the next day, it was only necessary to continue the fomentation, with demulcent drinks, to complete the cure.

From the result of these cases, the Professor is inclined to think that, although it would not be proper to administer this medicine in the height of an inflammatory attack, yet when, by means of bleeding, copious warm dilution, and other purgation, all immediate symptoms are allayed, the oil of croton may be administered, without any apprehension of reviving the phlegmatic state,—or rather, indeed, with a certainty of overcoming it altogether.

EARLY RISING FOR CHILDREN.

Rising early in the morning is good for all children, provided they awake of themselves—which they generally do; but they ought never to be waked out of their sleep. As soon as possible, however, they should be brought to regular sleeps in the day.

CHOICE OF FOOD AND DRINK.

With respect to the choice of aliment, those who abound with blood should be sparing in the use of what is highly nourishing, such as fat meat, strong ale, rich wines, and the like. Their diet ought to consist chiefly of the vegetable kind, and then drink ought to be water, cider, perry, or small beer. People whose solids are weak and relaxed, ought to avoid every thing that is hard of digestion. A nourishing diet, and a sufficient exercise in the open air, are what in point of health will most avail them. To use freely a nourishing diet, is improper for those who have a tendency to be fat. They ought likewise to be sparing in the use of liquors, and to take a good deal of exercise. Those, on the contrary, who are lean, should follow an opposite course. Persons who are troubled with eructations or belchings from the stomach, inclined to pretension, ought to live chiefly on acid vegetables; while, on the other hand, people whose food is apt to become sour on the stomach, should make a great part of their diet consist of animal food. Persons afflicted with nervous complaints, or with the gout, ought to avoid all flatulent food, and whatever is hard of digestion; besides, their diet should be sparse, and of an opening nature. The age, constitution, and manner of life, are circumstances which merit attention in the choice of proper diet; and sedentary people should live more sparingly than those who are accustomed to much labor. People who are troubled with any complaint, ought to avoid such aliments as have a tendency to increase it. Thus, such as are scrobutic ought not to indulge themselves much in salt provisions; while one who is troubled with the gravel should be cautious in using too much acid, or food of a astrangent kind.

The diet ought not to be too uniform, at least for any considerable time. A person, by long accustoming himself to dine only on boiled chick-

TYPHUS SYNCYTIALIS.

With the case of Typhus Syncytiatal in our present number, we conclude the re-publication of Dr Miner's treatise on this disease. The concise style in which the numerous and important facts contained in this essay are arranged, and the value of the reports of cases, rendered it difficult to give a more condensed description of the disease than that by the author himself, and induce us to re-publish the whole, that our readers in remote sections of the country might have the means of judging for themselves in regard to its character and worth. The existence of this disease, and the propriety of employing the class of remedies which were principally relied on in its treatment, have been so far remarked as matters of doubt; or at least as kinds of anxiety. There are those who have witnessed the development, and investigated the character of the disease with too much industry and precision to leave any doubt of its identity, or of the persistence of the title by which it is designated. It has been remarked, that those who have developed the character of this disease, have carried their principles beyond the limits assigned them by nature, and erroneously attributed similar symptoms to arise from different causes. That fevers arising from the same remote cause, may assume varied and opposite forms, from hereditary, sexual, acquired peculiarities of constitution, is well known; and there is reason to believe that similar forms of fever, may arise from varied and opposite remote causes. The reason why fever assumes a given form, depends upon the special influence of the remote cause upon the constitution, modified by the exciting cause, and the state of the patient at the time of attack. Therefore it has a most extensive range of character, for the seat of the prominent local affections being in different parts of the body, and in different structures, the functions of which are widely discrepant, the symptoms must consequently be extremely various, though its nature, and the constitution of the season in which it occurs, be essentially the same, and, though it be accompanied of fever and excess or deficient excitability.

If, then, the practitioner—as seems to have been the case with the author of typhus syncytiatal—have a clear knowledge of the symptoms and pathological conditions, whether of actual inflammation, simple excitement, venous congestion, general torpor, or universal prostration of vital functions, with which they are connected, it is not surprising that his philosophy of physic should be so far different from the ancient and conjectural system, as to lead him at once to different indications of treatment. As we can be sure of attaining a safe and correct pathology of disease, only by minutely noting down the symptoms during life, and by carefully examining bodies after death, in order to infer the real cause of the symptoms, it is a matter of great regret that our author should allow this important deficiency in his essay to escape unpunished. Upon the whole, this pamphlet contains such a body of facts, collected from personal observation, and extensive experience in one of the most variable and interesting diseases peculiar to our climate, as will be rarely found in so small a compass, and which will prove of more value to the profession than volumes of crotch explorations upon unsettled principles in practice, and doubtful theories of disease.

REPORTS.

CASES OF TYPHUS-SYNCOFALIS.

BY THOMAS MINS,

M.E.

(Concluded from p. 106.)

M. M. Leavenworth, &c. 25, was naturally a person of slender constitution and feable health.

Tuesday, July 12th. After about three days attendance on the patient in this place, he complained of 9 o'clock. A. A. m. of pain in the bowels, which was soon followed by a free liquid discharge, that produced great languor and sense of weakness. Two fluid drams of camphorated tincture of Opium, obviated these symptoms, and prevented any further evacuations of the alvine canal. About 12 o'clock, M. while visiting a patient, he was suddenly seized with great vertigo, accompanied with faintness or sinking at the stomach, which were speedily relieved by three or four fluid drams of compound tincture of Cinchona. Upon this, he immediately rode home, and soon after ate with much relish, a full dinner. The vertigo, and faintness or sinking at the stomach, occurred at intervals through the afternoon, and confined him to the house, but not to his bed. The paroxysms, however, were readily relieved by a little Brandy and water. During the whole of this time, the pulse, tongue, countenance, and skin, exhibited no appreciable deviation, from their customary, healthy state. Towards evening he walked out a few rods, but was seized with faintness, which caused him to return and take to his bed, from which he, though it is believed, he never arose without assistance. In the evening he took a cup of tea, a little Brandy and water, and a single grain of Opium, which greatly relieved the vertigo, and epigastric faintness or sinking, the only symptoms of which, at this time, he complained. During the night, he took moderately of Brandy and water, or of compound tincture of Cinchona, as often as these symptoms occurred, and invariably, with material relief. There was but little sleep, and that much interrupted.

Wednesday, July 13th. In the course of this morning there was double vision, the vertigo and epigastric faintness or sinking became much worse, and there was total inability to raise, or even move the head, without great aggravation of these symptoms. The pulse was still natural, as respects frequency and force, but had become quick; the skin was also natural, both as respects temperature and moisture; but the tongue had become flabby and pale, and was covered with a thin light colored fur; and the respiration was like that of a person who had just been making considerable bodily exertion.

The patient was put upon one grain of Opium every two hours, with three fluid drams of compound tincture of Cinchona, and about the same quantity of Brandy suitably diluted, every hour. A little wine was occasionally taken at the pleasure of the patient.

During this day, the symptoms were much less perfectly controlled, than they had been the night previous. Towards evening, and through the night, there was considerable disposition to vomit, with occasional retching, for which about
four extra pills of Opium, each consisting of two grains, were taken at irregular intervals, and uniformly with great relief. During the night there was but little sleep, and that imperfect and unaesthetic.

Thursday, July 14th. Double vision, vertigo, and epigastric faintness still continue, but with abatement, especially of the last. The pulse, tongue, and skin are much as the day before, but the respiration is nearly natural. During the regular morning aggravation of symptoms, epispaties were applied to the forehead, and the sides of the head. The same quantities of Opium and Alcohol, that were used the day before, were continued. In the afternoon, without any appreciable change in the external symptoms, the patient felt more comfortable, but on account of a slight unsteadiness in the bowels, a casual medical visitor advised a laxative enema. Instead of this, one of a dram or two of laudanum was given, which instantly relieved. Although there was neither fullness nor hardness of the abdomen, even in the slightest degree, but on the contrary, a perfectly soft, and rather lank state, yet some hours afterwards, this advice, at the wish of the patient, was complied with, and a decoction of Tansey and Ginger, to which was added a little common salt and hard, was administered. About this time, from the suggestion of a counsellor of much experience, and good judgment in such cases, an aromatic infusion of Gentian was substituted for water, for the purpose of diluting the compound tincture of Chincho, and instead of the Brandy and water, a table-spoonful of a mixture of equal parts, Brandy, Lime-water, and boiled milk was employed. After some hours, the same unaesthetic in the bowels returning, and no evacuation having taken place, another enema, prepared in the same manner as the first, but with the substitution of a fluid ounce of Castor Oil for the hard, was administered. About half an hour from this time, there were two moderate evacuations, which were immediately followed by a considerable increase of vertigo, and epigastric faintness, troublesome palpitation of the heart, aorta-descendens, and carotids, great restlessness, and slight delirium, together with a difficulty of retaining any thing upon the stomach. On the occurrence of these symptoms, an enema of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium diluted with a little tepid water, was immediately administered, an emetic was applied to the region of the stomach, and the regular dose of Opium was increased from one grain, to a grain and a half. On account of the irritability of the stomach, it was necessary to omit the compound tincture of Chincho, and the aromatic bitter infusion, and to get down the mixture of Brandy, Lime-water, and boiled milk, as the stomach would receive it, but without any regularity. During the night, several extra pills of Opium, of two grains each, were given at irregular intervals, as the urgency of the symptoms required. Under this course, there was a considerable abatement of the symptoms, and upon the whole the patient slept considerably more, than for any night previous, though the mps were short, and the patient was easily roused.

Friday, July 15th. This morning, the patient was better than the evening preceding, but not so well as the morning previous. The vertigo was still considerable, and there was total inabilit of the head, without great augmentation. There were, however, only occasional slight attacks, and the two grains of Opium, given at intervals, had these very moderate. Troublesome palpitation of the heart, aorta-descendens, and carotids, occurred occasionally, always accompanied with considerable restlessness. The skin was cool, and very sweaty, and the pulse was soft and feeble, and as respects frequency, it fluctuated between 80 and 110. A grain and a half of Opium was now given, every two hours; and every fifteen minutes, a half tablet of the mixture of Brandy, Lime-water, and boiled milk. Nourishment continued, for the patient had been rather irregularly. Chicken broth had been tried, but milk porridge was preferred. A table-spoonful of the latter was now directed to be inavitably taken after each dose of the Brandy mixture, and frequently a table-spoonful of Calce, was allowed in addition. During this day, in consequence of special exacerbations of the vertigo, palpitation, and restlessness, three emenae, each consisting of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium, and two extra pills of Opium of two grains each, were necessarily administered. This was followed by a great mitigation of the symptoms for which they were employed, for the space of two hours. This day there was so great torpor of the bladder, as to prevent a voluntary discharge of urine, but when the catheter was employed, this excretion was found to be natural, both in appearance and quantity. As extra doses of Opium were so absolutely necessary, in order to meet urgent symptoms, it was this evening judged expedient to increase the regular dose (which was given every two hours,) to two grains; and on account of a discharge for the taste of Brandy, Old Spirit was substituted, and a mixture was made, of two parts Spirit, one part Lime-water, and one part boiled milk, which was likewise given, in doses of a table-spoonful, and followed by the same quantity of milk-porridge, and occasionally the same of coffee. The night passed much more comfortably than any previous one, since the commencement of the disease. The sleep during the whole twenty-four hours, was less than natural, but more quiet and refreshing than it had ever been before. It was still necessary, though not so violent as the head low, and melancholy. During the day and night of the 15th, the patient vomited but twice.

Saturday, July 16th. This morning, the symptoms were more at bay, and the patient more comfortable, than any morning since the attack. During the customary apyrexial aggravation of the forenoon, beside restlessness and palpitation, there was some delirium. An enema of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium, was immediately administered, the whole top of the head was shaved, and a strong emetic was applied. The enema not proving sufficient, two extra pills of Opium, of two grains each, were given, before the restlessness and palpitation were obviated. When the emetic began to produce its effect upon the surface, the delirium speedily disappeared. In the afternoon, there was a very obvious mitigation of all the symptoms, and the patient was still more comfortable than in the morning. For the first time since the attack, the patient was now carefully lifted to another bed. This produced a considerable aggravation of the vertigo, and a recurrence of the epigastric distress and palpitation, for which, there was given the same remedies, with very rapid relief, an extra pill of two grains of Opium, and an enema of two fluid drams of the tincture.

Sunday, July 17th. This morning, the symptoms in general were alleviated still further, than on the morning previous, though there was still inability to move the head without troublesome vertigo. The regular forenoon deterioration required this day, for its relief, two extra pills of Opium, of two grains each. At this time, it was judged expedient to enter upon the use of the Lyoric of the Arsenite of Potassa, as a supportive and mitigating agent, and accordingly two minims were given, with every regular dose of Opium. Otherwise the course, both as respects medicine and nourishment, which had been pursued for the two days previous, was continued. The night passed as comfortably as any one since the attack, if not more so.

Monday, July 18th. This morning, as for three mornings preceding, there was a mitigation of the symptoms, in comparison with most of the day previous. The forenoon aggravation however, required two extra pills of Opium, of two grains each. During the day, some uneasiness in the bowels was complained of. On examination, the abdomen was found to be still free from hardness, fullness or tenderness, but on the contrary, it was actually soft and lank. An enema of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium, entirely obviated all complaint. This day passed comfortably, as there was less vertigo, palpitation and restlessness, than usual. Toward evening, the patient was again removed to another bed, which, as usual, occasioned a recurrence of troublesome symptoms, viz. vertigo, palpitation and restlessness, and rendered another enema of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium, and an extra pill of two grains, necessary, before the patient could be rendered as comfortable as before. In the course of the afternoon vomiting happened once, and that not long after a dose of the Lyoric of the Arsenite of Potassa. As the patient confidently ascribed this effect to that medicine, though probably without reason, it was judged expedient to discontinue it. The night passed comfortably, and without any extra doses of medicine. The regular dose was continued unchanged.

Tuesday, July 19th. This morning the patient was much as on the preceding. For the purpose of anticipating and preventing the usual forenoon aggravation, an enema of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium was given early, and with the desired effect. No extra pills were found necessary. About noon, the patient was visited for the first time during his illness by his father who lived at a distance. The agitation produced by this meeting, rendered another enema of two fluid drams of tincture of Opium necessary, in order to allay the increased vertigo, palpitation and restlessness. The regular dose was continued unchanged. This night, for the first time, was bad attendance. The watch slept, and of course was irregular, and repeatedly neglectful, in administering both food and medicine, and finally left the house where the patient was, before either the nurse or the family were up.

Wednesday, July 20th. The patient was worse this morning, than on any morning since...
MORTALITY OF INFANTS.—A memoir was recently read before the French Academy of Medicine, on the mortality of infants. Dr. Villeneuve has adverted to an subject, in which he compared the mortality of children in the upper classes, with that in the lower classes of society. The present memoir is formed on a similar plan. There are two kinds of deaths, which of these—two-thirds are sent out to nurse in the country; of these two-thirds, the mortality, during the first year, is three out of five, while the 7000 or 8000 nursed in this way, would have died. In the first popular quarters of Paris, where the streets are narrow, and the inhabitants wretched, the mortality is about nine in ten, in the first year. In the country, when good air, cleanliness, and comfort are united, the mortality in Normandy, the mortality during the first year is only one in eight. The academy, considering the importance of these facts, decided on communicating them to the minister of public instruction, whose object is to aid the unfortunate. Hitherto these societies have invariably recommended mothers nursing their children; but it is evident that bad air, and other concomitant circumstances, more than counterbalance these advantages; it is more charitable to add them to send their children to nurse in the country.

MOTHER.—(Phalpeter) is furnished in large quantities from caverns which abound in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri. In Madison County, Kentucky, there is a cavern more than one-third of a mile in length, forty feet in breadth, and ten feet in height, the earth of which yields from one to two pounds of nitre per bushel. This cavern extends entirely through a hill, and affords a convenient passage for horses and wagons. In the Cherokee country, near the Mississippi, a passage is found 50 feet high and 100 feet wide, through which a river flows, 6 feet deep and 50 feet wide; one bushel of earth from this cavern yields from 3 to 10 pounds of nitre. In some places in Kentucky, large masses of the nitre are found, and at the head of valleys, sandstone impregnated with nitre, sometimes rises 60 or 100 feet high; one bushel of this sandstone yields from 10 to 20 pounds of nitre.

Acre—Is found in ten or twelve states, in small quantities. It has been discovered in Sheffield, Leyden, Conway, and Ware, in Massachusetts. In Shenandoah County, Virginia, also, pure and unaltered, it was found. In Arkansas, there is an activity where the observer, on removing a few loose stones under his feet, will discover the upper surface of many acres pure and unaltered. Alicorn ore occurs at Cape Sable in Maryland, where 1200 tons of alum have been made in a year.

USE OF THE KALI HYDROGENICUS IN CUTANEOUS CANCER.—Dr. Graeff, of Berlin, has published a few short remarks upon the curative power of the kali hydrogenicus in cutaneous cancer. In the case of a woman, aged 29, suffering from this disease, and who had in vain employed other remedies, the plan was composed of one drachm of the above preparation and two ounces of simple ointment, was applied once a day. This produced a healthier appearance; the lachrymal discharges disappeared, and the irritation of the external surface. The strength of the ointment was now doubled. The healing of the ulcer proceeded rapidly, and in the course of a few weeks it was quite well.

VENOMOUS BITES.—Dr. Trumbull, of the New England Medical Institution, lately read a memoir on the mode of arresting the progress of any venomous bite, by preventing the absorption of the matter. He had made the experiment on animals, by having a muscle cut and deposing it in the tissue, or hydrocarbon, and then closing the part, which was attended with success, even after twenty minutes had taken place.

A letter from an officer of the U. S. Ship N. Carolina, dated Gibraltar Bay, Oct. 14, 1852, states that the crew have been very sickly from drinking water taken in at the island of Paros, and eating fruit, fish, and vegetables, containing no iron or glycerine. The sick were attended with great advantage.

COAL—Is abundant in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, and Tennessee, and occurs in other states. The coal of Pennsylvania is of a very beautiful and pure variety, and in the South, the coal is found in South Hadley, and in the South Hampton lead mine, in Massachusetts.

FEVER AGAIN AT NATCHES.—On the 14th ult., the yellow fever was raging in that country at a higher stage than it was ever known before. The deaths in Natchez, since the middle of September, had been, on an average, six every day, exclusive of those in the country, which were numerous and unprecedented.

HEALTH OF MOBILE.—On the 25th ult., several cases of malignant fever had occurred within a few days, but in some cases of the fever, there had scarcely been a drop of rain for a month, and there seemed to be no appearance of sickness.
OBservations.

Dr. Armstrong's Lectures
On the Principles and Practice of Physic.

Typhus Fever.

(Continued from page 110.)

For the middle and advanced stages of most of the ordinary cases of typhus fever, mild calomel purges may be almost be considered a specific, where no organic derangement has taken place. But what method is to be adopted in the second or intermediate form of continued typhus? Early and moderate venescence will generally suffice to lessen the cerebral affection, so that the disorder will afterwards yield to mild means. This is the form which has so repeatedly attacked my pupils. One or two moderate bleedings from the arm, as many present know very well, have generally answered an excellent purpose, before the tongue became dry and glazed; and after that period, cautious leeching, where the pain in the head, or where pain on pressure over the epiglottis or belly demanded such a procedure, the subsequent practice being very simple and gentle. In truth, when the bronchial affection once exists, with a glazed tongue, the treatment cannot be too gentle, except subacute inflammation require a deviation, and then even that should be discreetly made.

In the third form of continued typhus, that which sets in with the bronchial affection, the pulse is soft, the skin is not very hot, the tongue is dry, brown, and glazed, the respiration weak, the muscular power prostrate, and the lips dusky. In all such cases, avoid general bloodletting. A servant was seized with this form of typhus, about the same time as the solicitor, whose case I before related, and though in her the brain, the bronchial lining, the mucous membrane of the stomach, and of the ileum, were all inflamed, yet I am sure that the loss of eight ounces of blood would have destroyed her, yet, you know, the solicitor lost 108 in all, with great advantage. In form of cases were entirely different, the one being not only an acute but an active inflammation, the other being not only a subacute but a passive inflammation; passive, because the heart's action was subdued by the influence of a special bronchitis, by the circulation of a dark blood on the arterial side, as before explained. This girl recovered by cautious leeching, with mild calomel purges, aided by a fresh atmosphere, lemon juice, and light diet. Cases of this kind are sometimes insidiously announced, persons continuing to go about for some days, with a pale countenance, a dropping of the eyes, a somewhat glassy eye, yet a dull intellectual expression, a furrowed tongue, an uneasy head, and a languid look and manner, with loss of appetite and weakness or disturbed sleep. If they continue to go about too long, they frequently sink at once, and sometimes die rapidly. Remember what I before remarked—never allow a patient to walk about with the attendant signs of fever upon him. Always enjoy rest in the horizontal posture as soon as possible. It saves the strength, may, it often saves the life of the patient. In this third form, at the commencement, when the patient complains of constant pain in the head, or when he has a red tip tongue, with pain on pressure over the stomach or bowels, a few leeches may often be applied with advantage to the temples or abdomen; but remain with the patients that you may watch their effects, and be sure to restrain the bleeding from the punctures before you take your leave. If the pulse sink, and the respiration becomes anxious, you may be certain that the loss of blood cannot be further sustained at that time; if you have any doubt on the subject, always lean to the side of caution in such cases, for in them more lives are lost in doing too much than the contrary, in the way of medical management. In these and other delicate cases, it is important to ascertain the effects of an erect position. When patients, for instance, complain of dizziness of sense, drowsiness, pain, or faintness, and, when they turn pale and labor in the breathing, when they get up to the night chair, or as they sit upon it, never allow them to rise again, but let them pass their stools or urine in the recumbent position, for where the erect one produces the symptoms just mentioned, patients are apt to lapse into syncope if they sit long; and fainting then, is sometimes scarcely an appreciable interval between the syncope and death:—if the patient should recover from the syncope, it generally gives such a shock as to lead to serious consequences in the last stage of the exhaustion. The accumulation of offensive fumes is very extraordinary in typhus, and requires to be dislodged daily in most cases; but from the time that the tongue assumes the glazed and brown varnish, the evacuation should be duly regulated according to the patient's powers. I have seen many patients lost from excessive purging in the advanced stage of typhus. If ever you observe blood in the stools, you should always omit the aperients, which, by irritating the mucous membrane, are then hazardously made use of. In forms of typhus, the most usual and favorable is general, you can prepare any intestinal hemorrhage, since it is by no means uncommon in typhus, and unless patients be rightly managed, they have but a slender chance; whereas if you omit the aperients, keep them recumbent, adopt a light diet, and surround them with a fresh atmosphere, the majority of examples will do well. When jaundice occurs, when the patient is sleepless, when he constantly changes his place and position, opium is sometimes useful even where the tongue is parched and glazed and brown. But unless you have this conjunction of symptoms, avoid its exhibition in typhus. In one recent work, the pharmacology of Paris, small and repeated doses of opium are recommended in typhoid or typhus fevers; but like many of the other directions respecting the practical application of medicines in that work, this is erroneous, and, indeed, so very dangerous, that if adopted it would generally prove fatal. It is my purpose, therefore, to warn you against such error, which is very common in the compilers of the day, though destined to pass into oblivion, may do much harm in the mean time, since the assertions which they contain are mostly made with a confidence fully proportioned to their fallacy.

In every form of continued typhus, bark is prejudicial, and I am bound thoroughly to protest against its exhibition, since it has the sanction of some of those schools and colleges where ancient rather than modern medicine is taught or supported. If upon some occasions I have spoken decidedly against certain medical establishments in this country, it is because they do not participate sufficiently in the liberal and enlightened spirit of this age and country; and being aware that some excellent and able persons belong to them, it is against measures, and not against men individually with which I would declaim in this and every other topic connected with the medical art. Not only bark, but wine is recommended by many authorities in continued typhus; sometimes to such a great degree as to decreasing the heart's action, and aggravating all those local affections with which typhus is complicated. Yet to this observation there are some remarkable exceptions. In the advanced stage of typhus fever, when the pulse becomes feeble, the skin cool, the respiration embarrassed from debility, and especially when the patient is at the same time restless, a little wine given now and then is extremely useful in alleviating or removing some or all of the forementioned distressing symptoms. When a stimulus is necessary, none is so good as wine. It is at once grateful and refreshing. Whereas most of our medicated stimulants are disagreeable to the taste, and not unfrequently nauseate the stomach, and in that way rather depress than sustain the powers of life. In all critical cases, it is of great consequence not to offend the stomach, and hence it happens, that life is often lost from the too frequent repetitions of certain drugs. It is a long time before a man learns to be simple in his prescriptions. At all events when you trust to wine, avoid the mixture of medicines. As, however, the first exhibition of wine in the last stage of continued typhus is always an experiment, be sure to make it with becoming care, so that if you do not good by it, you may avoid any material mischief. Give it at first in tea or table spoonful until you ascertain its effects. If the skin be hotter, the tongue drier, the pulse quicker, the breathing more hurried, and if the patient become either more oppressed or more restless, wine does him harm; on the contrary, if the skin become only of a genial warmth, the tongue moisten, the pulse slower and stronger, the respiration deeper and more tranquill, and if the patient become less oppressed or more tranquil, the wine does good. But, generally speaking, if you pursue a right plan in other respects, you will seldom have occasion to prescribe wine in continued typhus.

Fresh air is the best cordial in all cases of fever where the tongue is glazed and brown. It is then, indeed, the most vital food. The sticky varnish on the bronchial membranes excludes the air, to a certain extent, from coming in contact

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"Non est vivere, sed valere vita."
with the blood when propelled from the right side of the heart, and presented, if I may use such a word, to the atmosphere which we inspire. By consequence the blood is not sufficiently deoxygenated or oxidized; a sort of venous blood is returned to the left side of the heart, which, circulating through the system, muddles the brain and masks the muscular power in continued typhus, which makes that word so expressive of its nature, as if it were a smoky or smothered fire in the system. This special bronchitis is the reason why patients require a constant supply of fresh air from without, but in the last stage, you must be sure to keep them properly covered, that the surface may not be chilled. In the earlier stages, however, when the heat is higher than natural, the body should be very lightly covered, tepid auralions should be occasionally used to cool the surface, and the temperature of the apartment should never be higher than 60 degrees, if practicable. Last summer, an old gentleman who honored me by being a pupil, had an attack of typhus, at the west end of the town. He put on a most magnificent character; his mouth was black and his skin spotted, sprinkled with purple petteah. I placed the bed diagonally in the room, so that a current of fresh air passed directly over the patient through an open door and two windows down, a nurse having been placed constantly at the bed-side to regulate the covering, so as to keep the surface of the natural warmth. Under this supply of air he recovered peace, and I have seen several examples of a similar nature, where the same procedure was equally successful.

When the tongue is brown and barked, diluted lemon juice is often very beneficial, provided it does not irritate the bowels so as to occasion uneasiness, or provoke watery evacuations. Next to that in efficacy, I would rank the solution of chlorate, or what is commonly called oxymoronic acid, a drachm of which, or a drachm and a half, may be given, largely diluted with pure water, in the course of twenty-four hours, observing the same limitations as prescribed for the employment of lemon. When the latter is given in the common drink, you should not allow any other fruits to be infused in the water, but you should be especially mindful not to permit the patient to eat any fruit which contains skin, seeds, or flours, since all these are very liable to create irritation on the mucous membrane of the stomach or intestines. You must not only pursue a similar simplicity with respect to diet, which while the skin is hotter than natural should be farinaceous, but you ought to adopt a like plan in regard to medical prescriptions, even avoiding saline draughts or mixtures, when they produce watery stools.

**CHOLERA.**

The history of the Eastern variety contains all that is new on this subject. It is entirely similar to that which appears in this country in summer, and generally begins with head-ache, vertigo, latitude, pain, and tension of the belly. The patient faints and falls down as if dead. The voice hardly audible, skin cold like wet marble, the appearance changes in a few hours from a full, fat, rosy plumpness, to sunken cheeks, hollow eyes, all the gla.stiness of death, and fi-


usually to death. During the disease the internal heat and thirst are excessive; the defecations are at first clear and watery, mixed with fluids lately taken, or undigested food. The pulse soon disappears, the fingers and toes are shriveled up, the skin cold and pulpy, and the eyes are hollow; there is pain at the angle of the jaw on each side, with partial deafness; horrible spasms running up from the legs, into the belly, followed by colic, vomiting, teneurism, pain, and death. The urea and legs become stiff, and a livid deathly color overspreads the body; the abdomen becomes distended like a drum; the perspiration, in the latter stages, is excessive, and the patient is cold, though he complains of great heat.

*Treatment.*—In hot summers of cold latitudes, and in hot climates, calomel is given in scrupul doses every second hour. To equalize the circulation in the large blood vessels, venesection is practiced with success principally among Europeans, in whom the disease is often inflammatory: the coldness and clamminess of the skin, and weakness of the pulse, always contra-indicate bleeding. Venesection, however, is of all other remedies the most successful in Europeans and in robust native subjects, when called in within the first two or three hours after the attack: spasms, irritability of the bowels, and the universal depression of the system, soon disappear. In native subjects the typhus state, however, comes on remarkably at once, and V. S. is impossible.° Calomel, in the opinion of Jameson, is the best purgative: administered at first in the dose of 20 or 30 grs. immediately after bleeding, where that evacuation is proper, followed by 60 drops of laudanum and 20 of oil of peppermint, supporting the warmth by external heat, the hot bath, and frictions, constitute the treatment most successful in this horrible disease. Blister to the stomach, made by applying equal parts of nitric acid and water to the surface, and neutralizing it as soon as it has produced some marked swelling; or a blister of cantharides was placed to keep up the irritation. This active treatment saved the lives of many persons under the care of Mr Powell, surgeon in India. It never fails to operate instantaneously.**

The doses of laudanum taken in cholera, are often excessive, 120 drops, with ether, ammonic, &c. every 15 or 20 minutes, at the same time bleeding from the arm to 40, 50, &c. ounces. The disease, from the great quantity of laudanum taken, terminates in a soporose state, which continues several days. Calomel and saltpetre produce offensive evacuations, of a dark color; and if persevered in a few days, sometimes effectually relieve all remaining symptoms. The warm bath had a good effect, according to Dr. Kinnis: diminishing the spasms, and increasing the circulation. It sometimes, however, increased the perspiration to an extensive degree. The patient should be always kept warm and comfortable, and in an apartment which is well ventilated.

Wine and spirits are necessary to support the strength after the relaxation produced by the opium, &c.

**Apparitions on Dissection in Cholera.**—A greenish, blackish fluid in the stomach, the internal surface of which and duodenum is inflamed; dark spots on its surface; the blood-vessels highly distended; the ptyalors like a hard and tumeied gland, much increased in bulk. The inner coat of the large intestines is dark red, brown, or blackish, containing fluids like pus—like shoe-makers' paste, often without bile, or resembling tar. In cases that terminate rapidly, the brain and its membranes are highly inflamed, proving that this disease, in its most violent form, does not arise simply from the stomach, but from the brain. The intestines, in the rapid cases, presented the marks of disease in those which were protracted, they were reddish and inflamed; they were always without thickening of their coats.

**Prevention.**—The proper preventatives of cholera are clothing strictly adapted to the season; generous diet;annel worn next the skin; moderate exercise in the open air, and occasional cathartics.

**DR GOMETZ ON THE TANIFIGE PROPERTIES OF THE POMEGRANATE ROOT.**

Among the East Indians, the bark of the pomegranate (pomica granatam) is said to have been employed from time immemorial in cases of tania; and the late accounts we have of its efficacy by European writers, would seem to establish its character, as incomparably the most important tanifdie we possess. Dr. Bumby,*** who prescribed for many years for cholera in the East Indies, was the first who made this article known in Europe as a remedy in tape worm. Some time after Dr. B's communication, further information was given to the public on this subject, by Mr Breton, surgeon to the Ramgur battalion in the East Indies. Mr Breton gives an account of eight cases of tania successfully treated by the pomegranate bark. He employed it in the form of decoction, made by boiling two ounces of the fresh bark of the root, in a pint and a half; three-fourths of a pint of this a glassful was administered every half hour, and seven or five doses were taken. He also gave it in the form of powder, in doses of twenty-five grains, repeated every hour. Dr. Gometz has detailed fourteen cases which were promptly relieved by this medicine. Dr. G. thinks that the best time for administering this vermifuge is when points of the tania are observed to pass off with the stools. According to his experience, it is dangerous to employ the bark in larger proportions than three ounces to the quantity of water menstruated above. When given too largely it produces nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, vertigo, and faintness. If these symptoms appear, the medicine must be omitted for four or five hours, when it may be resumed in proper doses. If one pint of the decoction fails to expel the worm during the first day, the same quantity should be administered on the succeeding day. The worm

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* Ibid. p. 529, 1821.

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* Ibid. p. 523.
* Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, V. XI.
very seldom resists the operation of the remedy longer than two days. The dry bark is much stronger than the fresh;—one ounce of the dry may be considered equivalent to one ounce and a-half of the fresh. This medicine was successfully employed in a case of tonsil in Philadelphia, by Dr. Mease.—Am. Med. Review.

REGULARITY OF MEALS.

The diet ought not only to be such as is best adapted to the constitution, but likewise be taken at regular periods, for long fasting is hurtful in every stage of life. In young persons it vitiated the fluids, as well as prevents the growth of the body. Nor is it much less injurious to those more advanced in life; as the humors, even in the most healthy state, have a constant tendency to acrimony; the prevention of which requires frequent supplies of fresh nourishment. Besides, long fasting is apt to produce wind in the stomach and bowels, and sometimes even giddiness, and faintness; though the strong and healthy suffer less from long fasting than the weak and delicate.

All great and sudden changes in diet are universally dangerous; particularly the transition from a rich and full diet to one that is low and sparing. When, therefore, a change becomes expedient, it ought always to be made by degrees.

HEALTH OF NOVEMBER.

The principal subjects of complaint, as regards health, during the present month, have been colds, with soreness of the throat, slight cough and febrile disorders mostly of remittent or continued forms, with various degrees of severity, but generally mild and of short duration. In these diseases it has seldom been necessary to make use of medicine. An emetic or purgative, if administered soon after the patient began to complain, followed with light diet and warm drinks, either restored the health in a short time, or made so favorable an impression, that further attentions from the physician were seldom required. Fewer cases of typhus fever have occurred during the present month than is usual at this season of the year. We learn from the country that there have been several bad cases of scarlet fever, and in some instances it has proved fatal. The treatment of this disease, which we believe has generally been followed by favorable results, is, in the commencement, if the skin be uniformly hot, to wash the patient all over with tepid water, and afterwards give a purgative of about two grains of calomel with a little rhubarb, and in a few hours a dose of cold drawn castor oil. The best diet is arrowroot, and for drink cold water. This plan judiciously pursued for a few days in a cool airy apartment, in mild cases, generally renders the patient convalescent. In the inflammatory form of the disease, if the fever be high and the throat inflamed, eight or ten leeches may be applied to the part and the body sponged with tepid water or a few gallons poured on at once over the whole surface. A brisk cathartic of calomel and rhubarb, or jalap, should next follow, and in a short time an infusion of senna with sulphate of magnesia. A gargle, composed of diluted sulphuric acid, may also be used, sweetened with syrup. The patient should be kept at rest in a recumbent posture, very cool, and on a spare diet.

In the form in which the inflammation of the throat runs high, attended by a copper-colored suffusion, soft compressible pulse, glazed tongue, diminished heat, weak respiration, with sloughs about the throat, evacuations must be employed with the utmost caution. Four or five leeches may be applied to the throat, and if the pulse rises, they may be repeated if necessary. If the skin be cool, the patient should be put between blankets, and have a bottle of hot water placed at his feet. A laxative may be made use of in the case requires, and all exertions prohibited. A drop of the solution of calomel may sometimes be given with advantage in this form, in the course of twenty-four hours, mixed with five or six ounces of distilled water. In the advanced stages, the subcarbonate of ammonia may be useful by determining to the surface; and if the pulse fluctuates, a little wine may be allowed. This form of scalding is most frequently occurs in delicate children and adults; and requires the utmost circumspection on the part of the attendants, to treat it with success.

ON INFLAMMATION OF THE MAMMA.

By James Holbrook, Surgeon to the Monmouth General Dispensary, &c.

Some women have their nipples depressed by the pressure of raised sex; stalking then cracks and produces ulcers on them. The most useful application which I have tried is the bals. peruv. mixed with any single ointment, applied to the part two or three times a day, at the same time defending the nipple from the pressure and irritation of the clothes by means of a little cup made of wax, or a proper glass; and with this attention the part is in general healed. When the cracks appear disposed to fill up, touching them gently with theargent. nitrat. has a good effect; and to the little ulcer, argent. nitrat. is often of great service, in changing their action, and disposing them to heal; but while the child continues to irritate the nipple by sucking, it will frequently be almost impossible to heal it. In such cases, the artificial teat should always be used.

As it sometimes happens that inflammation of the mamma is preceded or ushered in by febrile symptoms, attended by rigors, pain in the head and back, thirst, and quick, full pulse,—in which case there seems to be indicated a combinable inflammation, the application of a solution of the argent. nitrat. is advisable to commence the treatment by taking away a quantity of blood, in proportion to the urgency of the symptoms, followed by an active aperient of calomel, and infusion of senna with salts; and desire the patient to remain in bed, to have the breast suspended by a proper bandage, and the milk gently drawn from it occasionally, to diminish tension and relieve the vessels: subsequent to which, I direct a nurse to rub the whole mamma, constantly and gently, with the flat of three fingers, moistened with a little warm olive oil, for half an hour, which seldom fails to relieve the tension, and must be repeated as often as it returns. If, after this treatment, the fever and pain still continues on the following day, and the inflammation unabated, I direct ten or twelve leeches to be applied to the part, three or four near the nipple, and the remainder round the base of the breast, and encourage the bleeding by fomenting with warm water.

The leeches, applied in this way, do not interfere with the diligent use of the friction: in addition to which treatment, I give internally a mixture composed of infus. rosa, magnes. sulph. and iig. ant. tur. In general, by this plan, on the 3d day the inflammation begins to subside; but if, however, that effect should not so soon appear to be taking place, I persevere in the same treatment as long as no decided symptom of suppuration makes its appearance, by diligently employing the friction, and repeating the leeches as often as circumstances seem to indicate its being necessary: taking care to procure, by the use of the mixture above stated, at least four watery evacuations in twenty-four hours, and keeping the patient on an abstinence diet, corresponding to the state of the system.

This treatment will, in general, succeed in overcoming the inflammation in four or five days; but the friction should be continued until every appearance of fulness and hardness is entirely removed, and the breast regularly and gently drawn: the suspensory bandage should also not be left off. The boil should be attended to, so that at least two evacuations are procured every day by the same mixture, with the acid. sulph. dilt., in lieu of the iig. ant. tur. If separation is delayed, it is often necessary. The abscess should not be opened by the lancet, but allowed to break of itself.

The discharge is then purulent, attended with the separation of a slough: the sinuses must be laid open. Friction should be used to relieve the induration. This plan of Mr Holbrook, who appears to be a very candid and ingenious man, we should think, from the irritation produced by friction, would be dangerous; he speaks from experience. A blister, as in pleurisy, preceded by local and general bleeding, we should think, would be better. He thinks that his plan has a decided advantage over cold applications, and that the danger of their use is avoided.

In some cases of inflammation of the gland, the inflammation appears to extend along the tubuli lactiferi, in which cases so much pain is occasioned in having the breast drawn, that it is quite insupportable. Here, in addition to the friction, warm emollient fomentations should be frequently used; and, in order to combine their effects, a fomentation composed of a weak solution of mild soap, in warm soft water, will answer the purpose with great advantage, as its emollient quality affords great facility to the employment of the friction, which, in this way can be used at the time of fomenting.

When, in these cases, suppuration takes place notwithstanding our exertions, or if we are called in too late, one or more of the tubuli lactiferi frequently burst into the abscess; in which cases milk will be discharged with the matter: and I have sometimes known it occur a longer time in healing the wound, as the milk would continue to be discharged that way for some time, and appear to be the only cause of retarding the healing process.

ON BRONCHOCELE.

Wearing neck handkerchiefs cured a boy Mr Holbrook's (an English surgeon) experience. It was tried on others, and with good effect. Though some other measure were used in these cases, Mr Holbrook is disposed to attribute the effect to the pressure. The crying and weeping of infants he considers to produce it frequently, as also straining in labor: because it occurs
often in those subjects. Bleeding, digitalia, and the burnt sponge, he found generally successful. The blood-letting should be used cautiously. After many trials, the burnt sponge he considers the best remedy extant: he thinks that it operates by producing a general emaciation, which mercury also sometimes does. He relates a case of a girl who, by burning her cheeks, cleared away a cellular membrane, which cured the goitre, an argument in favor of the use of the seton, which may therefore be introduced through the cellular membrane only.

**VARIETIES.**

**MEDICAL APPLICATION OF LEACHES.**—At a sitting of the Academy of Sciences, M. Damerel reported on a memoir of MM. Pelletier and Hauzard, on leach.—The author proposed to determine in the first place the cases which in certain cases rendered the wounds made by leaches very difficult to heal; and, in the second place, to ascertain the circumstances in which particular leaches will not attack themselves to the skin. On the first point they are of the opinion that those who attribute the difficulty to the temperament of the patient, or to the nature of the disease, or to the imprudent custom which some persons have of piercing with a point of an iron, are not altogether mistaken. A second point is, to ascertain in what sorts of ways, in order to make it loose its hold, when it has been supposed to stick too long. On the second point they have ascertained, that frequently in common cases, the wounds, which resemble the appearance of those which are known as medicinal leaches, but which, nevertheless, are entirely different in their internal organization. The false leaches have not the mouth furnished with cutting jaws, nor can they penetrate the skin of animals; their intestinal canal and stomachs are differently formed.

**IRON ORLES**—are abundant in the New-England states, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvannia, and some of the other states. A layer of iron ore from twenty to thirty miles broad, and from ten to twelve inches thick, extends from Little Falls, N. Y., to 30 miles, and also a paper is here frequent in Haultby, Conn. A mine of iron has been opened about twenty years, and the ore is still very abundant, and yields some of the best iron in the United States. Near Red river, in Louisiana, mines of malleable iron have been found, one of which, weighing more than 3000 pounds, is now in the museum of the Philosophical Society of New-York. [Meteoric iron falls from the air in all parts of the world, and appears to be formed in the atmosphere by solar process hitherto unknown.]

**CROTON TICLUM.**—The oil from the seeds of this plant is not so much a new remedy as an old one, but as in Bengal, again brought into fashion as a powerful purgative. In some cases, a drop applied on the tongue has produced many loose, watery stools, and one or two doses has sometimes brought on diarrhea lasting for long periods. Mr. Nimm, of Glasgow, makes a tincture of the oil in alcohol. Croton oil is also used as an external application in rheumatism; and according to Collen, a few doses rubbed upon the umbilicus will prove purgative.

**SALT.**—It is said that an extensive plain, 2600 miles S. W. from Fort Osage, presents, in dry hot weather, an inscription of clean white salt, from two to six inches thick. The inhabitants live upon it, preserving it from the heat by covering it with rock salt, as white and clear as alums, exist in the Pawnee mountains, near the Arkansas. Large blocks of rock salt are found in the coves of the mountains eastward of Jefferson lake.

**COPPERS—(snaphaunce) of iron** is found in many of the states, and manufactures of this article are established in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and Tennessee. Pure native copper is found in caves in Tennessee. At Cunningham, in Massachusetts, there is a rock called the "coppers rock," pieces of which are used as a substitute for copper, in dying.

**THE MONTHLY JOURNAL.**—This publication is made up of "Selections from the most celebrated, and the latest foreign journals, of matter on all subjects embraced within the comprehensive circle of Physical and Veterinary Science." As a "journal of selections," it is judiciously conducted, and discovers an accurate discrimination on the part of the editor. It merits, and we hope receives, a generous patronage.

**DIGITALINE**—is an alkaline substance found by M. Le Rayer, in the leaves of the Digitalis Purpurea. It is inodorous, very bitter, very deliquescent, and very soluble in water, alcohol, and ether. It is the active principle of digitalia, and strongly poisonous.

**YELLOW FEVER.**—On the 1st of August Dr. Surin and a few others arrived at the Academy, in which he attempted to prove that fevers would be a great agent in the contagion of the yellow fever.

**WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,**

*Ending November 25;* from the Health-Office Returns, November 19th. Jackson Neal, 60. —Plebe Pettingale, 11 mo. —Nathan S. Brown, 33.—Catharine Cleary; Mary Ann Jones, 45.—James Calligan, 92.—William Davis Ticknor, 3 1-2; Joseph May, 74. —21st. —Joseph Hall, 52. —Samuel Meriam, 27. —Charles Smith, 33. —Mary Jenning, 11 mo. —Child of Michael Brady; Child of Alexander Vaneur, 24th. —Ann A. Hall, 6 1-2; Elizabeth Young, 61; Paul G. Grinnell, 11 mo. —Sarah Buxton, 2 mo. —Elizabeth Caldwell, 74. —Intemperance, 1; Lung Fever, 1; Fits, 1; Rheumatic, 1. —Lumb. Abces, 1; Apoplexy, 1; Consumption, 4; Croup, 1; Stillbirth, 1; Strife, 1; Typhus, 1; Influenza, 1; City Fever, 1; Tubercular, 1.

**THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE,**

*Published by P. Canfield.*

This work was commenced in Jan. 1823, and has continued to the present time, with a moderate share of patronage. During the two first years, the necessary attention was not given to punctuality in its publication, and no spirited exertions have yet been made for widening the sphere of its circulation. In the hands of the present proprietor, its appearance has been improved, by the use of a new, handsome type, and it is intended, in its next number, to publish a list of the new works which have appeared, and to commence an index. During this time, the original editor continues to select, from the most celebrated and the latest Foreign Journals, the most interesting matter, on all subjects embraced within the comprehensive circle of Physical and Veterinary Science. It is now without a competitor as a Journal of Selections, and the additional testimonials will exhibit in clear terms, the opinion of contemporaries, that it is the only journal of its kind in the United States, and that it will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and Public Tickets at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons resident or otherwise, in the city of Boston, or any of its suburbs, to the privilege of using the library of the Monthly Journal of Medicine, and that will enable the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets for the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made.—Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages hereunto offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thence paid. Visits to the monthly journal of medicine are received at the Postage thence paid.

*Vaccine Institution.*

James Smith.

Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.

**25**—The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina, a year since, and which occasioned the recall of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr. Smith. There was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr. Smith, 3rd February, 1824, to Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exemplifies Dr. Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

**ATHENEUM: OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.**

*For December 1.*

JUST published, by John Cotton, No. 154, Washington-Street, corner of Franklin-Street.

EDWARD GODWARD's LECTURES
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.
TYPHUS FEVER.
(Continued from page 114.)
On some occasions, I have known a constant nausea maintained by too large a supply of farinaceous and other food, the stomach and bowels being distended by flatulence. In these cases, the substitution of a little chicken tea, morning, noon, and evening, with a few grains of carbonate of soda in a little almond milk has often an excellent effect. The truth is, that many patients are worried to death in the last stage of typhus by being crammed too frequently with food and physic, or by being excessively disturbed with the mistaken attentions of their friends, that the stomach is allowed no respite—the brain no repose in sleep. In many of such cases, we can support the strength best, not so much by positive as by negative measures—not so much by administering diets and medicines as by the avoidance of all unnecessary demands upon the strength. Learn rightly to appreciate these seemingly little things, if you wish to practise successfully in the advanced stages of febrile disorders, particularly where they have proceeded from peculiar causes.

Continued typhus once fairly formed has a determinate duration under its most frequent or second form; and the medical man who attempts to stop it by the employment of active measures day after day will lose a large majority of his patients: while another, who confines the active treatment to the first few days of the attack, in order to moderate its character then, and who treats it very mildly afterwards, will save a large majority of his patients. Though I have been studying the practical application of remedies at the bedside for upwards of twenty years, and though the remedies which I employ are few and simple, yet I find that I learn to prescribe them with greater precision every year; and since for all, let me advise you to be still more, and more minute in your observation—still more and more studious in striving to adapt the means to the end, having previously acquired distinct pathological principles.

It frequently happens, in the last stage of continued typhus, that the urine is retained, especially when the brain is much affected, or when the bowels have been neglected. In such instances, the patient either lies upon his back and moans incessantly, or he is in great general distress, and liable to attacks of coldness; and in such cases, there is a tumour above the pubis, and the skin is most wet from the dribbling of the urine. The life of the patient may often be saved by drawing off the water by a catheter once or twice a day.

Having thus far illustrated the pathology and treatment of typhus, I may with propriety say a few words respecting the prognosis.

Typhus fever is the least dangerous in children; in them it generally puts on a mild continued form, and what is remarkable, that continuous<br>ed in them, shall sometimes be unattended by any sign of inflammation, a circumstance which is not observable when it occurs in the adult, and which, perhaps, can only be explained by the greater degree of sensitiveness in the nervous system of children. In young men, typhus is seldom fatal, if rightly managed from the beginning. Since October 1821, when the author commenced lecturing here, I have attended many medical pupils in the Borough for this affection, and they all recovered, though in two examples, from overcramping in convalescence, relapses took place and proved mortal. The brain is so debilitated when typhus runs its usual course of three weeks, that the greatest care is necessary till the strength be confirmed. Indeed, I have seen, upon the whole, more deaths from relapses than from original attacks. The average of mortality in persons between 25 and 40, and aged of ages, for in them the brain is most debilitated; of course I confine this remark to cases treated properly from the very commencement, for the ratio of mortality in my practice, when called in at the advanced stage of continued typhus, has ranged from about one in six to one in twelve, for some years past. But under the ordinary modes of management, under the extreme evacuations used by many young practitioners, and the extreme stimulation used by many old practitioners, the mortality is much larger in the advanced stage of continued typhus. The anxiety of practitioners, and the anxiety of attendants, to frequently prompt them to do more than is needful at such a period; but let me once more advise you to remove opposing circumstances, and to avoid the mischief which results from the minia diligentia of more medical prescription.

The state of the mind, it ought to have been observed, has great influence upon the issue of typhus. If the attack come on when the mind is suffering from any great calamity, it is most frequently fatal. For the most part, on the principal occasions, I have observed that cases chosen to be carefully cured, with the most intense circulatory shock, have gone on to the end. The affection is apt to be so severe as generally to endanger their lives, particularly if the case be neglected or mismanaged in the commencement or earlier stage.

Concerning that form of continued typhoid, or typhus fever, which arises not only from the putrid effluvia of drains, or from the contaminated air of hospital wards, but also from the introduction of some putrescent matter, as in the case of puncture from secession, the treatment requires to be regulated by the same plans as are already laid down; but the locally attended affection of puncture must be soothed by an emollient poultice in the first instance, and the arm laid in an easy position, which best favors the return of venous blood; and if in the progress of that affection any matter should form there or elsewhere, it must be let out by a free incision, especially if there be any tension about the part.

As in this typhoid or typhus form of fever the bronchial affection generally sets in at an early period, both the cough and expectoration against too free evacuations, which I know from experience are then exceedingly injurious.

The intermittent, remittent, and continued forms of typhus, which pass and repass into each other, may be considered as the regular effects of malaria, or marsh miasm, which exists in various situations; but this subtle agent sometimes produces attacks of congestive fever, in which the patient is at once stricken down, and, in fatal cases, dies without any reaction at all, or with an imperfect one, as before particularly described, when I considered the various modifications of common congestive fever. Occasionally, in this country, malaria gives rise to the symptoms which constitute the cholera morbus of nosologists, and then, when patients do not sink under the first shock, a fever is developed with the peculiar characters.

DEATH IN THE GALLIPOT.
In these days of universal light, it is most necessary, proper, and meritorious, that every man should ascend or be shovelled up to a higher rank in society than that in which he was born; but that is no reason why he should poison his neighbors. It is necessary that the philanthropy expended on climbing boys should enable them to climb from chimneys to chancellorships, from beneath ground to above the clouds; but that is not a valid reason why any man should poison his neighbor. Because we are all located at Westminster and Eton, it is necessary that we should all be supposed to know Latin; but what right does that confer on any man to poison his neighbor. And though the wisdom of our ancestors founded corporations, and though corporations are as stupid as our wise ancestors were, and though they hold fast by old customs lest the cloth should be torn off with the lace, and though they wrap themselves up in mystery, we maintain that none of these are sufficient reasons for allowing any man to poison his neighbor.

Now, though forty men who have not learnt physical at Oxford and Cambridge (for the plain reason that it is not taught and is not to be learnt there) choose to sell their house in Warwick Lane, build another in Stiffle-street, make a long speech in Latin which no one understands, give a breakfast to the Duke of York, and write their orders in Latin that is not intelligible, to people who could not understand it if it were, we aver that these are not justifiable reasons why any man should poison his neighbor. Nor, because an apothecary, an apothecary, a man who keeps a shop, an apothecary, a shopkeeper, a shopkeeper, a man who chooses to sell himself as a physician; nor because another man calling himself a che-
mist (alsi poor chemistry!) chooses to become an apothecary, nor because he cannot read Latin himself, and because the names of his poisons are written in dog Latin, dog and curtilled, and that they are all huddled together on shelves and in gallipots; nor because he also begins to practice physic, or is too much of a gentleman to stand behind his own counter, and hires boys to do it at the wages of a footman, are all these any reasons why he should poison his neighbor? Such poisonings are the consequences, of the that spirit-stirring ambition to rise a grade, or more grades, (as Jonathan would say) on the ladder of society, to make, make, money, "rem, quocunque modo!" to buy cheap, in short, and sell dear, according to the very spirit and essence of commerce.

There is not a week passes, in which some one is not poisoned, by a "mistake in the medicine," as it is genteelly and tenderly called, in this age of politeness, and of all manner of mincing, from a "mistake" to a "faux pas." In plain terms, the man is poisoned, killed, murdered, by the blunder or negligence of the apothecary, the chemist, or the chemist's boy. And the people submit to all this as quietly as if it was part of the necessary and irremediable law of Nature. "Death in the pot" is a jest to these "deaths in the gallipot"—in the gallipot, in the phial, in the pill box, in the elegantly folded and flattened bit of paper, which issues weekly from the apothecaries of drugs and destruction that haunt every alley, every street, and every corner, illuminating with their portentous and ghastly lights the circumambient darkness. You think, reader, that what we say is rather "spleenetic" or "rash:" not at all, though these and harsher terms will be applied to us—suffice it, that we know it. And so does the public; but it does not know the half, the tenth, the twentieth. Oxalic acid for salts, saltpetre for salts, butter of antimony for antimonial wine, ammoniæ embrocation for a draught, laudanum for any thing; of these, or some of these, the public know every month, or every six months; but it does not know them all, and it does not know of many more, and it does not know one case in ten, twenty, a hundred, where these "mistakes" occur, where people are poisoned, killed, and buried, and where the disease or the doctor, not the apothecary nor the chemist, gets the blame.

It is a crying evil, and it does demand a remedy. It is not a month since a lady of rank was killed by swallowing ammonia prescribed to be used externally. It is not much more since Mr Owen, the artist, was poisoned by laudanum, similarly misnamed. The fate of the late Prince of Ireland is not forgotten. But what are these to the crowds who never come to light. In our own experience, and a limited one it has been, we have seen twenty such cases for one of which the public has known. We have inquired among our medical friends for testimony, and among our friends in general practice, and it makes your readers shudder. And those friends have scarcely exempted, among them, a man, or a shop. From one or other, we are assured that such mistakes have happened in almost every one of the greatest shops in London. But we are desired not to give names, and we must obey. And yet this seems a specimen of that false delicacy which would rather that the innocent should suffer than that a culprit should meet his just reward.

And from the evidences which we have collected, we have also found errors proving that nothing but the most extreme ignorance or the grossest carelessness could have committed them, for others the most perfectly dissimilar, and the misplacement of labels where it would have been supposed impossible to misplace them. What else but an utter ignorance of the nature or aspect of these dangerous substances could compound a draught of arsenic and water, could substitute saltpetre cast into bulles, or sal prunella, for common salts, antimonial powder for ipecacuanha, muriate of antimony for antimonial wine, laudanum for almost every thing, and much more that we need not enumerate. One of our evidences has informed us that, in a medicine chest containing six bottles, four were wrong, and that from the very largest shop in London.

Sickness is a sufficiently serious evil; and it is hard to think that, like poor Owen, we are recovering from it to the remedies. Why does not the legislature interfere; it is always interfering, and with less reason. The apothecary was originally the dispenser of drugs, and often the maker; he understood his trade, and attended to it. So he does still in France, and elsewhere. In England, he must be aphysician, or a sophist, a physician without education or study, without either practice or experience than that of having folded papers and tied pack-threads for seven years; and his own trade, that which he has undertaken to perform, a most dangerous trade, is left to menu hirelings and idle boys, ignorant and careless, often so careless, that they will neither weigh a solid nor measure a liquid. The chemist, as he is called,—chemist indeed,—steps into the place of the apothecary, and he too by degrees becomes a physician, and leaves his business, in rotation, to both study to procure assistants or workmen at the lowest wages, and the consequences are obvious.

The custom of writing prescriptions in Latin, and, in some measure, of naming substances in abbreviated Latin, is perhaps a minor evil, but it is one. The hireling cannot read Latin; and though he may discover the names and the substances, he often cannot translate the directions to the patient. Surely these at least might be given in English, as in the case in Scotland, wiser on this point at least. Hence the gross and dangerous blunders which occur every day. But the Latin does not now serve even the purpose of concealment from the patient, if that is its object; since every patient can contrive to read his prescription, in a country where all know physic, or about it. Let the College show that it has good sense enough to abolish this silly relic of mystery and barbarism.

But let the legislature interfere also, at it requires the deep waters of France, where no Pharmacoes can practice, and where he must attend to his shop. Why should not errors of this nature be visited with penalties, if nothing else will keep apothecaries to their duty. The man who throws a beam from a house into the street, is subject to the penalties of the law; he who deals in danger, and does not take every precaution against it, is a proper object of criminal legislation, and the more so when the facilities and the frequency are considered; the difficulty of detection, and the fearful consequences of neglect—consequences involving no less than human life.

These are the contingencies attending crime, which justify penalties peculiarly severe, as the heinousness of the general practice, and they are circumstances which cause the legislator to visit minor crimes with the severity due only to great ones. Let us hope that another parliament will not pass without investigating a subject which has long loudly called for its notice and care. We are confident that one or two examples of justice would correct the evil for ever; and they are not severe laws which effect their purpose by means of partial suffering, and which, with transient or limited severity, produce permanent and solid good.—Lond. Alog.

ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF CALOMEL.

Mr Annesley commences his paper, by remarking it is singular, that after so many years experience in the use of calomel, and the great diversity of opinion yet prevailing on the subject, no investigation should have been entered upon, with a view to ascertain the direct effects of this medicine on the stomach and bowels, and the alterations it gives rise to in their secretions. He then proceeds to state his mode of administering the remedy, which was at one time to give moderate quantities; but on perusing Dr Johnson's works, he was induced to alter his practice, and to substitute 20 grains for his former doses. The diseases he commonly employs it in are Fever, Dysentery, and Hepatitis; and he gives it in combination with two grains of opium every seven or eight hours, followed up by a brisk purgative. The mouth should never be affected; and when this takes place, Mr A. conceives the salutary operation of Calomel is interrupted. With respect to a prevailing belief, that many communities in India are ruined by it, Mr A. is disposed to attribute such deleterious influence to perseverance in small doses, after the necessity for using the medicine has ceased. His opinion is, that a large dose of Calomel acts as a sedative. With reference to ascertaining its direct effects, Mr A. instituted a series of experiments on dogs, administering the drug to them in doses of one, two, and three drachms; and after a definite period, killing the animals, and inspecting carefully the stomach and intestines. The results he considers highly satisfactory; and they lead to the inference, that the natural state of the stomach and intestinal canal is high vascularity; and that the operation of the Calomel in large doses is opposed to inflammatory action. Hence is explained in some degree the effect of scrupulous doses of Calomel, in allaying irritability of stomach and vomiting, a circumstance which Mr A. has often witnessed with astonishment. The operation of Calomel on the secreted matter of the intestines is both chemical and chemical, it being aL.

The former property Mr A. thinks may explain the benefit derived from Calomel in obstructions of the duodenum. It makes some remarks also on the change of color produced by the admixture of Calomel with cystic bile; and concludes the paper by expressing a hope that the experiments detailed may lead to a further in-
IODINE FOR CARCINOMA UTERI.

Among the organic diseases of the uterus, there were many cases of scirrhus and carcinomas of the uterus treated. Besides the generally recommended remedies, and employed without any agreeable result, the iodine was made use of in three cases. In two cases of scirrhus it was given internally, as tincture of iodine, according to the formula of Coindet, and in one only externally, in the shape of ointment, the hydriodate of potash. In three cases this specific produced a powerful forcing influence upon the uterine system. Internally, notwithstanding it was given in small doses, it excited, besides other less important effects, a sensation of tension and painful pressure in the abdomen, and the hydriodate of potash rubbed on the abdomen increased very evidently the disposition to hemorrhage. Those patients became greatly improved, but are still under treatment. The third, on the other hand, who has taken the tincture of iodine, and injected cica and the leaves of the laurel-cerasus, may be considered as cured of the scirrhus of the os uteri.—_Lond. Med. Repository._

FRICITION.

One of the most gentle and useful kinds of exercise, is fricition of the body, either by the naked hand, a piece of flannel, or what is still better, a brush-throw. This was in great esteem among the ancients, and is so at present in the East Indies. The whole body may be subjected to this mild operation, but chiefly the belly, the spine, or back-bone, and the arms and legs.—Fricition clears the skin, resolves stagnant humors, promotes perspiration, strengthens the fibres, and increases the warmth and energy of the whole body. In rheumatism, gout, palsy, and green-sickness, it is an excellent remedy. To the sedentary, the hypothenrum, and persons troubled with indigestion, who have not leisure to take sufficient exercise, the daily friction of the belly in particular, cannot be too much recommended as a substitute for other means, in order to dissolve the thick humour which may be forming in the bowels, by stimulation, and to strengthen the vessels. But, in rubbing the belly, the operation ought to be performed in a circular direction, as being most favorable to the course of the intestines and their natural action. It should be performed in the morning, on an empty stomach, or, rather, in bed, before getting up, and continued at least for some minutes at a time.

CHRONIC DEBILITY.

In the state of the system which we would designate chronic debility, the countenance is pale or white, but often of a yellow or greenish tinge, there is coldness of the extremities, deficiency of elasticity of the muscles, feebleness, difficulty of breathing upon slight exertion, swelled feet, an inactive mind, and oppression during sleep. In females, to these symptoms may frequently be added, pain in the head or sense of weight across the eyes, palpitation of the heart, pain in the back and limbs. Disorders of this kind are commonly connected with suppressed evacuations, or with causes which influence the digestion and assimilation of the aliment. Chronic debility, when unconnected with suppressed evacuations, jaundice, dropsy, seiriosities of the viscera, external tumors, ulcer of the stomach, or, is generally considered as a single disease; and is often occasioned by long continued anxiety, too sedentary a life, indulgence in spirits, or too copious evacuations, particularly those excited by artificial or unnatural means.

The indications of cure in this disease are to strengthen the stomach and invigorate the system. Hence the diet should be nutritious and cordial, such as nourishes in the least quantities, and repeated often, to afford nourishment adapted to the state of the stomach, without overloading it. No error is more common or fatal, than in cases of weakness, to accumulate food. It is not what is swallowed, but what the stomach can digest, that is serviceable, and it should be of such a nature as to oppose the cause or circumstances of the disorder. Exercise should be constant and regular, but within the compass of the strength. When the bowels are evacuated, medicines which increase the vital heat, as warm bitters, aromatics, and chalybeates, should be given; autonomic relax the stomach, and therefore should be avoided. In this disorder it has been usual to give small doses of rhubarb previous to dinner. Mr. Abernethy orders five grains an hour before dinner, with a view of inviting secretions into the stomach, and preparing it for digestion. When rhubarb has diversified, columbia has been substituted.

In these complaints there is frequently a want of discrimination, from not investigating the various circumstances with which they are connected, with a sufficient degree of minuteness; this, it should be the aim of the practitioner to supply. In every instance of chronic debility, visceral obstructions are to be suspected; and we should not accumulate our toxic and stimulants, without relieving overloaded glands by gentle stimulants applied to their excretories,—we mean slight laxatives. The warmer regimen purgatives are adapted for this purpose, and among them rhubarb and aloes are the most conspicuous. These may be given in every variety of form, not to purge violently, but to keep up a regular discharge, and on some days to give an additional evacuation to the usual daily one. With similar views small doses of calomel may be advantageously employed, not exceeding a grain, or a grain and a half, every night. The effects of mercury are sufficiently well known to explain its use in cases of this kind; and as there are always some internal obstructions to dread, its probable utility is the more obvious.

REPORTS.

SECOND OPERATION FOR CUTTING OUT THE JAW.

Misfortunes seem to be entailed upon some individuals, but those which are productive of the most pain and misery, are calculated to excite the deepest sympathy. Our readers will readily recollect that Mr. Hubbard, of Deerfield, underwent, last June, the severe and dangerous operation of having a large portion of his jaw taken out, in consequence of a formidable tumor, denominated osteo-sarcoma. Within a very few months, a second tumor completely filled up the space where the lateral portion of the bone was taken out, and principally connected with the angle of the jaw, on the right side. The growth of the tumor, within the last three weeks, had been astonishingly rapid and alarming, besides being accompanied with a dull, deep-seated pain, like that of a diseased tooth. Under these circumstances, he again applied to his former operator, Dr. Batchelder, who advised a second operation, and Mr. Hubbard, fully convinced of its necessity, and the danger of delay, again submitted to the operation.

He was placed in the Anatomical Theatre, in the Berkley Medical Institution, on Saturday, Nov. 19, and Dr. B. commenced the operation in presence of a large class of medical students now attending lectures, and several professional gentleman. An incision was made near the zygomatic arch, at the temple, quite to, or beyond the symphysis of the jaw, on its lower margin; and when the integuments were carefully dissected away, the jaw was sawed off just at the right side of the tubercle, on the inside, in order to save the short hyoid muscle of the tongue. The cut end of the bone was now dissected up, and carried from the face, with the tumor upon it, and untreated at the articulating extremity. The coronoid process was so far projected within the zygoma, by the temporal muscle, that it could not be separated by a knife, without cutting above, and was therefore clipped off with the pliers, leaving a tip of the bone connected with the muscle. With the exception of this bit of bone, one half of the jaw was taken out. The lateral circumference of the tumor is seven inches, and its other circumference eight, being of an oval shape, bony and cartilaginous. The wound was dressed, and nine days after the operation had almost healed by the first intention, and there is strong reason for believing he will recover, and that this operation will be a final one.

The students of the Institution have done themselves much honor in raising a purse, to defray his expenses, while he remains in the college, that they may witness the progress of the cure.

CASE OF ERYSPHELOTUS PHLEGMON.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

By William H. Duggan, M. D.

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1829, I was requested to see E. T., a boy 3 years of age. Discovered the most violent pyrexial symptoms; pulse in frequency 120 in a minute, and hard; tongue covered with a thick coat in the centre, but of a glossy redness at its edges and apex; extremities of a livid hue; the head and body suffused universally with a dark erysipelatous inflammation; the large joints much swollen; there existe the most acute sensibility, for the least motion was painful; complete delirium was manifested at intervals; respiration was hurried.

He had been slightly indisposed for a week previous.

Wednesday, Nov. 2.—No alleviation of the symptoms; had passed a sleepless night; extremities swollen; light and sound intolerant, and complained of pain in the left axilla. Upon examination, discovered a phlegmonic swelling, the redness circumscribing the tumor which extended largely on the chest; similar ones were observed on the inferior part of the arm. As the swelling under the arm would eventually suppurate, the usual measures were directed to produce that effect. 3d.—Acension of fever observatory at night, but somewhat abated in violence. During the last 24 hours he had several convulsive paroxysms. 4th.—Countenance visibly altered; eyelids turgescent; the slightest touch of the skin was insupportable; the swelling under the arm appearing to cause additional constitutional irritation, and fluctuation being
faintly perceptible, it was deemed expedient to make a free incision into the abscess, which being accomplished, a profuse discharge followed, with evident relief. A tent was introduced into the wound, that the discharge might be promoted, as appearances indicated, suppurating occurring all over the arm, and other parts in the vicinity. 5th.—Had slept well during the night, without an anodyne; considerable symptomatic fever still present, with regular exacerbations: debility increased; a constant and copious evacuation of pus now occurred from the abscess in the axilla. Throughout the disease the stomach had rejected every thing swallowed.

6th.—All the symptoms now portended an unfavorable crisis. The appearance under the arm indicated incipient gangrene; the purulent discharge from the abscess was now converted to a serous and offensive one; every part of the body was covered with an efflorescence resembling the sting of wasps, the scalp particularly so. 7th.—Great prostration of the vital powers; the child lay comatose and partly insensible through the day; evacuations involuntary; respiration slow and unnatural. 8th.—Surprisingly better; countenance more expressive; pulse frequent and more full; pupil of the eye dilated and contracted as in health; he had enjoyed some refreshing repose; subsequently, a progressive amendment succeeded; the inflammation subsided; the cuticle was peeling off from the several parts of the body, and there continued throughout a free discharge from the abscess which has now nearly ceased.

On the 16th, the child was so far convalescent that I discontinued visiting it. The principal peculiarity observed in this case was the variety in the appearance of the external surface. At one period the efflorescence on the skin closely resembled that in malaria; at another, in spots analogous to the bites of insects; and at the advanced stages the body was covered with numerous pustules, which filled, and breaking spontaneously, discharged purulent matter. The treatment of the disease was nothing peculiar. The stomach and bowels were thoroughly evacuated at the onset, and the use of cathartics was persisted in daily. Diaphoretics and refrigerants were added. The Sub Mur. Hyd. was administered in suitable doses at night, to move the bowels the following day. After suppuration had occurred, and symptoms of debility ceased, the use of cochnona was restored to, combined with wine, at first with caution, and afterwards liberally. Several ounces of Madeira wine were given through the day, without producing any narcotic symptoms, but on the contrary with the most decided good effects, seeming at one time to be the only prop upon which rested the existence of the little patient.

Quincy, Nov. 20, 1825.

CASE OF PERICARDITIS.

Boston, December 2.

A printer entered the hospital on the 1st Pluvius, year seven of the Republic, having been ill five days, but previously in good health. On examination, he presented the following symptoms, viz. headache—some degree of faces hiccopotara—circumscribed red spot on each cheek, more especially the left—tongue changed—some cough—abundant expectoration, slightly tinged with blood—respiration much embarrass-ed—sharp pain in the side, (point de cote) extending from the left across the lower portion of the sternum to the right, and increased by pressure—obscure sound, on percussion, over a considerable space of the left side, almost the whole of the right side sounding well—constipation—scanty urine, of a turbid appearance, with red sediment—skin dry and burning hot—pulse feeble, small, quick, irregular, and intermittent. Vesication, diluents. Two days passed without any remarkable changes, the countenance becoming daily more hirsutic. In the evenings there were exacerbations of the symptoms. 5th.—There was nausea added to the other phenomena. An emetic prescribed, not without dreading the consequence. It was determined to follow up this measure with tonics. The emetic did no good—the patient was entirely deprived of sleep, being obliged to sit constantly upright in bed. In this deplorable condition he lingered out some ten days more, and expired on the 22d day, from the invasion of the disease.

It is probable, M. Tacheron observes, that the period of acute pericardial inflammation had passed before this man’s entrance into the hospital; and that purulent secretion or effusion had commenced, when, of course, the disease was incurable. The phenomena of the complaint, however, were strongly characteristic of its nature and seat—consequently the case is a valuable document, and worthy of record.

VARIETIES.

GETTING WET.—This accident is at all times less frequent in towns than in the country, especially since the use of the umbrella has been introduced.

When a person is wet he ought never to stand, but to continue in motion till he arrives at a place where he may be suitably accommodated. Here he should strip off his wet clothes, to be changed for such as are dry, and have those parts of his body which have been wet with a dry cloth. The legs, shoulders, and back are the parts which are most exposed to wet: they should, therefore, be particularly attended to. It is almost incredible how many diseases may be prevented by adopting this course.

Cataarrh, inflammations, rheumatisms, diarrheas, fevers, and consumptions, are the foremost among the train which frequently follow an accident of this kind.

To Make Puret Water Sweet.—Five drops of sulphuric acid put into a full quart of water, of bad water, will cause the noxious particles to fall to the bottom. Twenty drops of dilute vitriolic acid will answer the same purpose.

The water should stand two hours, then pour off about three parts for use, and throw the rest away.

LEAN ORE.—(Sulphur of lead) has been discovered in almost every state in the Union. The vein in Hampshire county, Mass. is six or eight feet in diameter, and extends at least 20 miles from Montgomery to Whately. The most important locality of lead ore, which the United States or the world contains, is in Missouri. It has been explored at various places, from the river Arkansas to Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi, a distance of 500 miles. The number of mines, or mining operations, in Missouri, is 40, and the quantity of lead annually smelted, is estimated at 3,000,000 pounds. The ore yields, on assay, 82 per cent of metallic lead, and the remainder is chiefly sulphur. The oldest mine in the state was discovered in 1730. There are rich lead mines in Illinois and the N. W. Territory.

Pressic Acid.—This acid was first discovered by Scheele, in 1730, and first procured pure by M. Gay Lussac. It is liquid, colorless, and transparent; a powerful deleterious odor, like that of bitter almonds, and of a taste at first cooling, but afterwards acid and irritating. It is the most deadly poison known, a single drop being sufficient to bring the heart of a strong dog, making it fall dead as if shot. The medicinal pressic acid is made by adding to the pure acid six times its volume, or 8.5 times its weight of distilled water. Does, from a quarter of a drop to two drops.

IODINE—is an elementary principle discovered in 1813, by M. Courtous, in various species of sea-weed, such as fuci and ovae. The modes of preparing it are described in all the medical works. One part, as recommended by Dr. Myddleton, has been followed by satisfactory results. In cases where the remedy was persevered in and properly managed, partial expectoration of the lungs was observed, and all the symptoms of hectic fever, gradually diminished. In cases where it has failed to procure immediate and entire relief, it was neglected, and a remedy from which much good might have been derived, entirely abandoned.

OIL OF EUPHORBA LATHYRUS.—M. Grimaud gave an account to the Royal Academy of Medicine of Paris, at their meeting of the 21st of February, of the experiments of Dr. Calderini, on the oil of the Euphorba Lathyris, which is eminently purgative. M. Grimaud mentioned that he had repeated the experiments of the Italian physician, and that he considered this oil perfectly effective, in many respects, to that of the croton liguim. The dose is from four to eight drops, for an adult.

MERCURY—combined with sulphur, occurs abundantly on the shores of Lake St Clair, Huron, Michigan and Erie. It occurs in the soil in the form of black and red sand, and in banks of clay. It yields by distillation, about 60 per cent of mercury.

FEVER AT PUERTO CABELO.—On the 1st of Nov. the yellow fever and black vomit were raging with all their fury at Puerto Cabello. There was nothing to be seen but the sick burying the dead.

NOVACULITE—occurs in numerous beds in North Carolina, and answers the description of the Turkey oil stone preferred by chemists, to make houses in the market. There is a fine bed of water stones 21 miles west of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—The number of students now attending lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institution, is 115.

NATIVE SILVER—has been found in small quantities, in four or five of the United States.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending December 2; from the Health-Office Returns November 29th.—Belvidere Goodale, 10 mo; Jane M. Newton, 7; Hannah Minot, 20. 37th.—John Page, 32, 8th.—Jane Whipple, 82; Frances Henry, 93; Joanna Sheen, 2, 12; Josiah Brown, 73; Jeremiah Lar- rey, 39, 39th.—Charlotte Brown, 18; Abraham Clark, 54, 37th.—Hannah Aery, 27; John Ryan, 35; Frances Kinsey Clark, 25; Benjamin Rich, 42. December 1st.—Miriam French; Ann Macomber, 20; Abel Turner, jr, 16; Eliza and Hannah Fisher, 49.

OBSERVATIONS.

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

TYPHUS FEVER.

(Concluded from page 117.)

When I had satisfactorily ascertained that malaria was the primary cause of what is commonly called typhus fever, I was led to reflect on the phenomena of what has been usually designated the yellow fever of the West Indies and the pestis of the East, and from an impartial consideration of the facts which have fallen under my own observation, and from those which have been communicated to me, I have every reason to believe, that yellow fever, pestis, and typhus fever arise from the same source, and are, in truth, modifications of one and the same disease. It shall now, however, show their probable identity by a detail of facts.

The vagueness of medical language is well known. The science abounds with abstract words, which have never been distinctly defined, different meanings are attached to them by different individuals. The term yellow fever is one of these; and, in fact, it has been applied, not to one affection, but to various affections. It appears to me, that no less than three affections have been comprehended under this term. If a character be given to the disease in a hot climate a patient be seized by yellow fever, and inflammation of the liver, in its progress the skin is liable to become yellow, and from this symptom it has, by some, been called the "yellow fever." If a number of Europeans, for the first time, visit the West Indies, many of them, on their arrival, are apt to be attacked by an acute form of fever, which has been ably described by Dr. Dickenson under the name of "the inflammatory endopneum of the West Indies." In the progress of this fever, the skin will be yellow, and then becomes yellow, and therefore it has also been called the yellow fever, and formerly it was thought to be contagious, from the circumstances of many persons being attacked, successively or together, for example, on shipboard. But it has been satisfactorily proved, I think, that it arises from the high temperature operating upon unaccustomed constitutions, and the circumstances of many persons being attacked about the same time or in succession depends, first, upon their predisposition; and, secondly, upon their being exposed to the same exciting cause, namely, an elevated temperature. Persons accustomed to the climate escape this kind of fever.

To a mind deeply imbued with the doctrine of contagion, it is seen everywhere; but recollect, it has been well observed, that what appear to be facts are often only opinions—aye, opinions by which the facts are discolored or concealed. Lastly, when it has been called yellow fever arises from malaria or marsh miasma; it has intermittent, remittent and continued characters, passing or repassing into each other. It is to the last-mentioned form that I would appropriate the term "yellow fever in this lecture. Now yellow fever, under this signification, sometimes occurs in this country. In 1814 I saw several cases, some of which were fatal, and the patients had the black vomit, and died with skin as yellow as gold. In 1818, I saw also several cases in which the skin became yellow, and in which the black vomit appeared, and since that time I have occasionally met with cases in which the skin appears as saffron or a lemon hue. The saffron hue generally arises from the absorption of bile, which is then found in the urine; the lemon hue generally arises from universal relaxation, with some change probably of the blood, and then the urine is pale. An intimate and intelligent friend of mine, who resided long in the West Indies, has repeatedly traced this form of yellow fever to malaria, as I have done with respect to the typhus of this country, that it arises from the same source, that it is an intercurrent, a remittent, and a continued character. Sometimes, in this form of yellow fever, the glands externally become affected in the West Indies, especially the axillary and parotid, of which I have seen many similar examples in this country, but always in bad cases.

The word pestis was, in ancient times, used in various senses to express, in short, the existence of any epidemic which extensively prevailed under a serious character. In the time of Procopius, the meaning of it seems to have been first limited to that modification of fever which has an intermittent, a remittent, and a continued character. Sometimes, in this form of yellow fever, the glands externally become affected in the West Indies, especially the axillary and parotid, of which I have seen many similar examples in this country, but always in bad cases. Nevertheless some of the most experienced observers agree, that many cases of pestis occur either without the bubo or carbuncle, being then attended by petechiae, which seem to be slight exudations of blood, in points, under the skin. In the time of the great pestis in London, the bubo, carbuncle, or petechiae, seem to have been regarded as the distinguishing characteristic. Having in bad cases of continued typhus seen in the axillary and parotid glands affected, having seen ill-conditioned bile on the surface, and bearing aware that petechiae were not uncommon, I began to suspect that pestis and typhus were merely modifications of each other. From this period, I examined the surface more attentively, and since then have repeatedly met with cases, always severe ones, in which the bubo and carbuncle were distinctly marked, yet I have never seen these cases were apt to attack one another immediately by persons, or mediately by things. Moreover pestis arises from the same source as typhus, and assumes the same forms, that is to say, when traced under all its varieties, it is intermittent, remittent, or continued. One English author, from personal observation, has remarked this circumstance. My friend Dr. De Reder, an Austrian physician of great ability, who resided many years in Turkey, transmitted to me the result of his observations there, and he found that pestis arose primarily from malaria, and that sometimes it put on the intermittent, sometimes the remittent, and sometimes the continued character, appearing and disappearing in particular spots, just as typhus fever does in this country. Another medical friend who has visited Constantinople, has come to the same conclusion as to the original cause of pestis, and has been as remarkably struck with the similarity of it and the typhus of this climate. Upon the whole, these facts appear to show the probable identity of yellow fever, pestis, and typhus fever, as already defined. The same conflicting, nay, confused testimony, exists respecting the contagious or non-contagious nature of yellow fever and pestis as of typhus fever. Whatever may hereafter be proved to be the case of the two former, by a more minute and passionate inquiry, than has yet been instituted, I can only repeat, that the more narrowly I investigate the facts in regard to the typhus fever of these, the more ardently, in having not only the cleared aspects, the more I am inclined to doubt its contagious nature, and as to yellow fever and pestis, I am in possession of several striking facts, communicated by veritable persons, which certainly do appear quite irreconcilable with the doctrine of contagion. But as I have determined to leave my own mind open to the free admission of future evidence, so I must again recommend you to investigate the subject, not for the sake of any favorite hypothesis, but solely for the sake of truth, the discovery of which is always useful, and the possession of which can alone satisfy a rightly regulated mind.

Viewing typhus fever under its most comprehensive signification, I may be permitted to say, that, by dint of industry, I have made some improvements, first, in having more distinctly exhibited its remote occasions, the knowledge of which will enable you to prevent its occurrence in many places, or stay its extension when it may appear in a neighborhood. Having fitted the remedies to the different forms and stages, which will enable you to apply an active, an intermediate, or a mild treatment, with more precision than has hitherto been laid down by medical writers. Indeed if you have fully comprehended the pathological and practical bearings of the doctrine of a congestive, simple, and inflammatory variety of fever—if you have fully comprehended the modifying influence not only of common and peculiar remote occasions, but of all those other particulars to which I have repeatedly adverted, as necessary to be considered in practice, you will be at no loss, into whatever climate you may be thrown, since you will have principles to guide you—principles which, in reference to the pathology and treatment of all febrile diseases, may have a wide application, and may be applied to the great principles of the discovery of which is always useful, and the possession of which can alone satisfy a rightly regulated mind.

ON THE TREATMENT OF GANGLION.

BY WILLIAM CUMIN, M. D.

Having some time ago met with several cases of the tumor commonly termed Ganglion, I was disappointed to find, that the usual modes which
are recommended by surgical authors for the removal of such swellings, were either irksome or inevitable, and the character to be readily agreed to by the patient, or in most cases conscientiously recommended by the surgeon. As these tumors are commonly seated in tendons, they cannot be extirpated without exposing the tendons; and should the wound not heal by adhesion, a tedious and even long lingering sore may be the consequence. Such an operation is very rarely had recourse to; and the common method of treating ganglia is, to strike them smartly with a book, and thus endeavour to rupture the sac, and disperse its contents. But the thing which is the result of this is more agreeable, without an improper degree of violence; and even when it has been accomplished, the swelling generally, after a short interval, returns. The procedure is besides in itself rude and painful, and altogether most unsurgical. It occurred to me, that by introducing a cataract needle obliquely through the skin, freely dividing the sac, and then pressing the contents into the cellular tissue, I should succeed more effectually, and with much less pain, in removing this disease in such a manner that without any risk of inducing inflammation of the cavity. The thing is itself form to be very sparingly supplied with absorbent vessels, for absorption very rarely, if ever, takes place here, so as to effect a cure; while the cellular tissue into which the contents would be forced by the proposed operation, abounds with lymphatics. I had no opportunity of proving the efficacy of this plan until the month of November last, when a patient came under my care in the Lock Hospital, having a ganglion on the outside of the wrist, which had been partially removed for a short time by means of a very smart blow.

Christian Liddell, admitted November 15th, 1824. November 22d.—The skin over the ganglion was to-day drawn firmly to one side, and a coucher needle introduced into the tumor; the sac was freely divided, and the contents pressed into the surrounding cellular tissue. A small portion escaped through the external puncture, and presented exactly the appearance of the white of an egg. Compression and bandage, solution of acetate of lead. December 29.—Fluid again collected in the ganglion. December 30th.—The ganglion, which was much smaller than on the former occasion, was to-day emptied as before, by means of the coucher needle. After this the fluid was daily pressed out of the sac into the surrounding cellular tissue, until the 24th, when only a very small quantity was found in it; and on that day she was dismissed, cured, with directions to repeat the pressure daily for some time. I had an opportunity of seeing this patient at the hospital on the 28th February, 1825, and I could then detect no trace of the ganglion, except a slight thickening in the situation which it had occupied.

I have since had several other cases which have served to confirm me in the favorable opinion which I had formed of this mode of operating for ganglion. It is of consequence, after the operation, to apply a compress and bandage, and every morning to empty the tumor completely by pressure, and then reaply the bandage, until the thickness of all will be to render the impossibility removed. It does not seem probable, that the cure in such cases is accomplished by the obliteration of the sac, or the cessation of its power of secreting fluid; but by its gradual contraction, and the permanence of the opening in its side, to any newly secreed fluid finds its way into the cellular tissue, and is there splendidly absorbed.

But this simple operation is not equally well suited to every form of ganglion, indeed there are some in which it ought not to be performed. The favorable cases are those in which the tumor is tense and translucent, and rolls freely under the skin, showing that the cellular tissue is loose and healthy. But should the prominence of the tumor be considerable, and the skin covering it thickened or inflamed, the operation ought to be deferred until the patient is in a more favorable condition; for, under the circumstances now mentioned, the sac cannot be freely divided, the cellular tissue will not readily receive the glairy contents, and the efforts used to force them out, will in all probability cause inflammation and suppuration of the sac. None of the patients on whom I have operated ever complained of pain from the introduction and movements of the needle; one gentleman indeed even spoke of the latter as causing rather a pleasing sensation.

It has occurred to me, that a similar mode of operating might be applied to hydrocele; and that a cure of that disease might be accomplished by opening a communication, by means of the cataract needle, between the cavity of the tunica vaginalis and the cellular tissue of the scrotum. No suitable opportunity has presented itself of putting this idea to the test of experiment; but the trial is one which, in the hands of a cautious surgeon, would in all probability effect at least a temporary cessation of the symptoms, and which I should consider a valuable achievement, and productive of any injurious or unpleasant consequences.—Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal.

DYSENTERY.

LETTER FROM DR. CRUL, OF BECKET, MASS. TO DR. BATEHOLDER, OF PITTSFIELD.

Communicated for the Medical Intelligencer.

Being disappointed in my endeavors to have the benefit of your counsel during the violent spread of a most malignant Dysentery in this town, I determined as soon as leisure would permit, to give you some broken hints of its symptoms and progress.

The first symptoms were not the same in every case: in some few cases the attack was similar to that of fever in general; with cold chills, pain in the head and back, nausea and slight vomiting, with some increase of arterial excitement and increase of heat. These cases, however, were few, compared with those in which indigestion, acidity of the stomach, violent griping pain in the bowels, and diarrhoea were the first symptoms noticed. Immediately after the discharge of the natural feces, evacuations of bloody mucus, floating in a fluid resembling the washings of bloody meat, followed, often of dark color, but the color various at different times and in different cases,—severe tenesmus, frequent, and painful discharges, a small, weak, and frequent pulse, with an inclination to coldness of the extremities, a sinking of the strength, partial sweats, of a peculiar sour fetid smell, aphthous sores in the mouth and fauces, various cutaneous eruptions about the breast, face, and extremities, petechial hemorrhage, &c. In a few cases, pusules very much resembling the vaccine appeared on the extremities, few in number, and spreading to the size of an inch in black and gangrenous; a dark incrustation of the teeth, lips and a discharge of matter, forming, resembling coffee-grounds, closed the scene. In a few of the first cases, a puking of a green curdy fluid accompanied the whole progress of the complaint, from an early period, till near the close of life, when it assumed the dark appearance above mentioned. In some, stupor and coma, in others, slight delirium, at intervals, were accompanying symptoms.—A dilated pupil of the eye, in the cases which proved fatal unambiguously. The patient would, after the tongue very pale, moist, and covered with a white fur at first, which grew darker as the disease advanced. Early in the complaint the natural feces had a very fetid smell; began to pass off more copiously, with less pain, accompanied still with a mixture of briny mucus: from the beginning, in most cases, there was evident signs of great arterial debility; the thrush and cutaneous eruptions showed themselves at no regular period of the complaint, but on their appearance there was an evident aggravation of the symptoms: a cankerous affection of the mouth was a general symptom.—From attentive observation I am constrained to believe it to be highly infective when arrested by heat. During the rage of the complaint the weather was very warm, which undoubtedly aggranfunction of the symptoms, and gave wings to the dysenteric effluvia.—The complaint in its malignant form has been confined chiefly to one neighborhood, from which many cases appeared to derive their origin by infection. But, as was stated above, the symptoms while the warm weather continued: after a heavy rain and cooler air, cases were fewer and lighter, all except one are now convalescent. Scattering cases of dysentery appeared very early in this vicinity, but not alarming until it broke out in the vicinity of Mr. Little, one of whose children I was informed you saw at Middlefield. Three of his children died at home, and four more in the same neighborhood, in different families. For a while there was not a house free from it for some distance. Whether or that at Middlefield was a clearly marked case in its malignant form I cannot say, having had no particular description, but from its speedy fatal termination conclude it was. I found the appearances of the tongue in some instances very deceptive, the fur coming off gradually, or sticking on in a short time, and either indicative of no favorable prognoses in the worst cases. All who have steered clear of thirst and perte, or eruptions, have recovered. Various symptoms described by authors I have not found: may we not doubt the frequent appearance of them in dysentery? I have observed balls of mucus intermixed with feces but by no means hard. The complaint was uniformly ushered in by diarrhoea, nor were the bowels inclined to be costive, as there were frequently a mixture of thin bilious stools, and that after the use of strong vegetable astringents. Towards the close of the complaint, frequently a diarrhoea with very solid discharges ensued, which, by observation, was an effect very fast.

With regard to the management of the above form of dysentery, I feel a degree of delicacy in mentioning that course which appeared to be the
only one that promised success, and which evidently did restrain its progress, prevent the most violent symptoms, and finally conquer the disease. I am well aware that it is not a popular mode of treating dysentery, but being thoroughly awakened by the first cases as to its putrid and malignant nature, and its unyielding course under the common treatment, furnished a reasonable excuse for variation. In perusing what I have written, I find it necessary to add that in some cases the natural feces were inclined to delay; in such cases a small quantity of Ol. Ric. would generally answer the purpose, the bowels being very sensible to the operation of cathartics, especially in the after part of the complaint.

In some cases commencing with chills, pain in the head, a dry hot skin, and increased arterial action, I found it beneficial to take some blood at the commencement, which relieved the head, &c.; but these cases were few, as before observed: in general, an emetic of Iq. at first, and occasionally through the complaint if necessary, with the mildest cathartics and emetics, were all the depilating remedies which were found useful or even harmless. Cat. as a cathartic, did not answer our expectations, but rather the reverse. Cat. and opium, half a grain of each every four hours, as a glandular depressant and stimulant, and having the desired action, appeared to be worse than useless. I had imbued an early prejudice against colchicum in this complaint; the use of it was recommended and commenced in my absence.

In most cases we were by the symptoms led to evacuate sparingly, and immediately following evacuations, with diffusible astringents and tonics, such as opium, carphor, brandy, vegetable astringents, bitters, bark, wine, friction of the extremities, &c. together with a free use of mucilages, and diet in quality light and nourishing, and in small quantity often repeated, a free ventilation, and a strict regard to cleanliness, were excellent auxiliaries in the cure. As before observed, in one case the natural feces were too long retained, as a mild laxative we gave the preference to Ol. Ric. I could not perceive that opium, brandy, and vegetable astringents, discreetly used, had a tendency to produce any delay of the natural feces. I sometimes thought they had a contrary effect. If so, could it be by their determining to the surface, and alloying the morbid irritability and irregular action of the bowels. I found branzy, rum, or gin, indispensable for the purpose of creating and supporting a necessary energy in the circulation, which in many cases was found deficient at the commencement, with a coldness at the extremities, &c. In some cases that it was not a use of ardent spirits, without the least appearance of its exhilarating effect. It would render the pulse more full and firm, produce a more equal temperature and a gentle diaphoresis, followed by an abatement of the pain and tenesmus. I would not be understood that I am in favor of an indiscriminate and intemperate use of stimulants in all cases and under all circumstances; far from it: their use ought to be regulated tonics and vegetable astringents, discreetly used, in many instances a temporary flux occasioned by their use, which was harmless if not beneficial. Every thing which had a tendency to debilitate, was injurious: every thing bracing and stimulating, appeared to be beneficial. Various kinds of spices were used—advantage. Ipecacuanha, in any way except as an emetic, was injurious. Opium, brandy, astringents, chalk mixture, mucilages, spices, balsams, and bark, varied pro re nata, were all found beneficial. Sulphur acid was also used in some cases with good effect. Charcoal was used in a few cases perhaps to some profit.

Query—how can the above mode of treatment be reconciled with the common theory of dysentery?—as aphioma or any cankerous affection is remedied by astringents and stimulants, may we not hazard a query that the incident local affection is something similar in its nature, and in this way account for the beneficial effects of the internal use of remedies before mentioned, in an early stage of the complaint, before its unabated progress has produced those appearances discovered on dissections after death. In the worst cases before mentioned there was a malignant putrid fever attending the complaint, a high predisposition on which undoubtedly did exist, but I am inclined to think the local affection of the bowels preceded the fever generally. In many cases the fever was very evidently symptomatic.

There are now some scattering cases of fever of a low putrid type, not answering to all the descriptions of typhus gravior, but very similar and generally accompanied with eruptive appearances, and inclined to spread through families like dysentery; stubborn in its progress but not so fatal. In one case the whole surface of the body and met with diffuse eruptions over the body and face, which appeared to be melena spots of the size of a fourpence, appearing upon the abdomen, entirely immediately under the skin, appearing like bruised spots; no elevation of the skin, a full frequent pulse, red commences, hot skin, a stheme in the mouth and fauces, a black crust on the lips and teeth, a costive state of the bowels and inclined to convuls: no delirium. This patient is now on the mend, but the spots are yet quite visible. The fever commenced with chills, pain in the head, back, &c.

May we not with propriety conclude, that in consequence of the unusually warm summer, diseases more severe and have some appearances uncommon in cold climates? A species of cholera was in almost every family a while previous to the commencement of dysentery, and I am inclined to think that those who had it briskly paid their dysentery debt, in some degree at least. 

REPORTS.

FRATURE OF THE SKULL.

Mr Ezekiel Chamberlain, a very respectable inhabitant of Dalton, Mass. on the evening of Nov. 7th, in attempting to drive a restless horse, in a small waggon, in which were three barrels of cider, was pitched from his seat, and probably kicked by the horse. He was found in the highway and from thence taken to a neighboring house. Dr Batchelder was called in this case. An extensive wound was found over the left eye and a dislocation in nearly the centre of the os frontis, in which half of a large apple might have been imbedded. The fracture extended deeply in every direction —even under the tendon of the temporal muscle. 

poster laying back the scalp, and tracing the fractured lines, twenty-three pieces of bone, many of which were of the diameter of a cent, were taken out. The crania galli, a portion of the cartilaginous plate of the ethmoid bone—some of the ethmoid cells—all of the left superciliary arch and part of the orbit processes of the os frontis, were broken into pieces, and easily detached. Very little use was made of the saw. The dura mater being lacerated, portions of the brain frequently escaped. He had his sense through the operation and remained tolerably comfortable several days. There was a pretty free discharge of matter by the nose from the anterior lobes of the cerebellum, while he lived, which was fourteen days after the accident.

With all our opportunities for witnessing fractures of the skull, this is the first instance in which we remember of having seen a case, where a fracture extended so extensively as to break off the crania galli or injure the orbit processes of the frontal bone.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ANOMALY.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER, FROM DR ELBERT CURTIS TO DR JOHN H. CLARK.

Communicated for the Medical Intelligencer.

On the 14th inst. I was notified that a little girl, in Caroline, whom I had seen two or three times, was dead, and as I had expressed a wish to examine her after death, permission was granted, and a message sent for me to come immediately and proceed.

I must digress a little to relate some of the symptoms before death. When she was brought to me, I thought a general chronic or sub-acute inflammation had taken place, affecting the whole viscera of the abdomen, and ordered her to be treated with gentle purgatives and hydrargyrum, not expecting to cure her. Her appearance was like one that had passed the age of puberty; her features, voice, size of the abdomen, and pudenda, all appeared like those of a grown person, and one that was in a pregnant state, though she was only three years, nine months, and ten days old when she died. I thought there must be some particular derangement of the uterus, to cause such appearances, and visited her from curiosity, and to learn the effects of the remedies mentioned above. They had but little effect.—When she was born, there was some appearance of hair about the mons veneris, with some unnatural enlargement of the labia pudenda.—There was no other unusual appearance in the child, until about a year since, when her parents noticed an enlargement of the abdomen, and thought she was troubled with worms, as she had turns of pain in her bowels treated accordingly, without relief. Her abdomen continued to grow, without any soreness, but occasionally a pain like labor pains, surprising all who saw her. She looked majestic when standing, and when she lay down would lie on her face and abdomen. There was to be felt a hard tumor in the left hypochondrium, also a hardness above the pubes, but no soreness; some little fluctuation in the right side. She had a sudden pain on the morning of the 14th inst. and died in about three minutes—so say the parents and witnesses.

To proceed—l went on the morning of the 15th inst., Dr Wilder with me, and met Drs Mend and Perry. We made an incision from the bot-
tom of the sternum to the umbilicus, and from hence each way to the spine of the ilium. When the left side was made, a large tumor protruded, that filled the whole left side of the abdomen, crowding the diaphragm, stomach and spleen upwards, and the intestines into the right side. On examination, it proved to be the womb, enlarged by something of an irregular shape, to about twelve inches in length, and from three to five in width, weighing (including the womb and one kidney that so firmly adhered to it as to come with it) four pounds and ten ounces. It adhered to the diaphragm, spine, &c. down to the psoas muscle, quite firmly. No other unnatural appearance, except the liver a little enlarged, and indurated. On opening the womb, we found the remains of a fetus, such as brain, lungs, heart, diaphragm, liver, sacrum, &c., to satisfy us there had been a living growth of a child, or something that left similar appearances. It appeared to be passing into a state of putrefaction, though the heart was entire, with its auricles, ventricles, foramen, ovale, &c., as was the diaphragm, and the lining membranes of the brain and lungs; the sacrum quite natural; though no appearance of bone, yet something that we supposed a secretion of bone matter, not ossified; no trace of features left, if there had ever been any, but stringy substances, of different colors, for which we could find no name; but we were satisfied that fetal circulation must have been performed in the ordinary way, and not a doubt remains but that it was the principal, if not entire form of a human fetus, born with her, to all appearances. Now if you or any one else can account for this sport of nature, I hope you will be able to answer, from sound reasoning, such inquiries as naturally arise. If you wish further information on any point, let me know, and I can satisfy you, for I took accurate minutes at the time; and the above, as far as you have them, may be relied on as facts—it is what I saw and felt, and can prove by four physicians and a number of other witnesses.

Dunby, Tompkins Co. N. Y. Nov. 23, 1825.

NOTE.—A case analogous to the above, in being quite as great a deviation of nature from her accustomed course, and attributed to an original defect in the organization of the germ, was sent by the Minister of the Interior to the School of Medicine at Paris, and a detailed account of it given by M. Dupuytren. In the body of a young man aged thirteen, who died of consumption, was found an organized mass, which presented in its forms a great number of features of resemblance to the human fetus, and, on dissection, no doubt could be entertained of its nature. This fetus was evidently contemporary with the boy to whose body it was attached. It received its nourishment from the product of extra uterine conceptions, from that which may be considered its brother, and whose germ had originally enclosed it, and who had so long performed for it the office of a mother.

Mr Young, of London, has communicated a case of the same kind, inserted in the first volume of the Medical-Chirurgical Transactions. In Mr Young's case, the fact was contained in a cyst that seemed to answer the purpose of membranes and placenta; it was without a brain, but had imperfectly formed digestive organs, and external organs of generation. See Richet's Physiology, p. 550, and vol. 1st of the Medical-Chirurgical Transactions—Eust.
OBSERVATIONS.

Dr Armstrong’s Lectures
On the Principles and Practice of Physic.

Small Pox.

When smallpox arises from casual exposure to contagion, it appears, generally speaking, in about ten or twelve days afterwards, sometimes, however, later, and sometimes earlier. I knew an instance in a female who was not attacked by variola until nearly a month after exposure, and another instance in which it occurred in three days. When variola arises from inoculation, the system is commonly affected in about nine days. There is a state in the progress of smallpox called eruptive fever, by which is meant the fever which occurs before the appearance of the eruption, and that fever usually exists about three days, as a precursor of the affection of the skin. At this early period, you should be very cautious about giving an opinion as to the precise nature of the complaint, especially if smallpox prevails in the neighborhood. If you should be called to a patient who has a hot skin, a quick pulse, some uneasiness about his stomach, with nausea, retching, or vomiting, if the eyes be a little redder than natural, the tongue covered with a white fur, the head or back uneasy, you may generally suspect that it will turn out to be smallpox, but you cannot be positive about it, and therefore do not commit yourselves by too unqualified assertions. When the eruption comes out, it appears first upon the face, neck, and then upon the upper and lower extremities. The eruption is generally finished in about three or four days from its first appearance; although Van Swieten mentions that he saw a case in which the eruption was not finished till from six to seven days. That, however, depends very much upon the treatment, for if a patient be kept hot, the eruption will continue to come out for a longer time than if he be kept cool from the commencement.

The pathology of the old authors was external or symptomatic merely, and we accordingly find, in all the nosological systems, that the latter is called the patient, the former the disease. The either the distinct, this division being simply founded upon the appearance of the eruptions. When the eruptions are so far from each other that they do not touch and coalesce, then it is called the distinct smallpox; but when the eruptions run into each other and coalesce, then it is called the confluent smallpox. But in modern pathology, unacquainted with the established technicalities, were to write upon the subject, he would find the distinctions, not upon the external signs, but principally upon the internal pathology, which is the most important. As, however, the terms distinct and confluent smallpox are among our medical fixtures, I shall continue to employ them, and explain under them the internal pathology of smallpox.

Distinct Small Pox.

There are two forms of the distinct smallpox, the one of longer duration than the other. The first form is designated by the following symptoms: When the eruptive fever has continued about three days, you may, 1st, observe small red spots appear about the face, followed by others upon the neck, trunk, and extremities, and these spots gradually increase in size. 2. In the second place, each small red spot becomes a vesicle in about three days. 3. That vesicle, distended with serum, has a central depression, and a small indentation at the top, visible usually between the third and sixth day. If you were to press the head of a small pin on a vesicle raised by a blister, it would give you a very good idea of what I mean by this central depression. This is invariably present in some of the vesicles, and, I repeat, it appears from about the third to the sixth day on the upper portions of the body. When the vesicle becomes a pustule, then the indentation is lost, an opaque spot frequently occurs. Its place. 4. This pustule becomes a pimple between the sixth and ninth days, being then distended, not by a serous, but by a purulent fluid; the serum having been absorbed and pus deposited, or the serum converted into pus. At this period the eruption has a pearly sort of appearance, while each pustule, instead of having any central concavity or depression, is now globular. 5. There is a red and an elevated case round every well-defined pustule. Maturation succeeds on the eighth, ninth, or tenth day, and then the swelling or incrustation; the pustule now appears round or brown or darkly scaly eruption at last falling off, sometimes leaving pits. Many expedients have been resorted to in order to prevent the pitting, but the only plan is to avoid the premature separation of the scab, and that is of some importance to recollect, especially in a dandy, or handsome female. (A laugh.) In the progress of the eruption, the face swells first, because the eruption is completed there first, and then the swelling of the face subsides; the hands swell, and after the swelling has subsided there, the feet swell, and still more in the hair. During the progress of the eruption, an appearance somewhat approaching to that of a variolous pustule is seen about the mouth or fauces, and some authors have said, that they have found pustules internally, but the structure of the part does not admit of it, and they are rather phlegm, resembling pustules. The cuticle is so modified after it reaches the lip, that it is, perhaps, a physical impossibility, at least I have never seen what the Americans would call a genuine pustule there. It is the subdehyde of a pustule merely, even about the mouth and fauces. The tongue is usually covered in part with a whitish fur, as the eruption proceeds. When the eruption has come out, the fever, in the distinct smallpox, either entirely leaves the patient, or is very much mitigated; it remains in a slight degree, for it is not true, as some systematics state, that the fever invariably leaves the patient as soon as the eruption comes out or is finished. The bowels are usually more constipated than natural, and when they are lax you must be upon your guard, for it is generally owing to some irritation of the mucous membrane of the upper part of the colon, or of the lowest part of the ileum. The older authors were not in the habit of qualifying any thing which they said, and men who are accustomed to speak or write very positively are apt to misunderstand all who do not write in the same manner. They said, the secondary fever arising about the period of maturation, was invariably the attendant of smallpox; but it is not a necessary occurrence, for I have seen many cases of distinct smallpox rendered still milder by a proper treatment, in which no secondary fever appeared. It is frequently present, however, where the eruption is abundant, and the causes which appear to produce it are the following: 1. The irritation in the skin is highest about the period of maturation, and this irritation occasionally appears to contribute to the rise of secondary fever. 2. As the pustules then subside, the absorption of the variolous matter may probably be another concurring cause. 3. A third cause may be, and often is, the interruption to the functions of the internal mucous membranes, as well as those of the skin; and in that way the secondary fever may arise sympathetically, for whenever the functions of the skin are much disturbed, then the internal mucous membranes are liable also to become disturbed. 4. A fourth cause is sometimes an accumulation of feaces or urine, or both. This secondary fever appears to have been the universal attendant of smallpox in former times, because the practitioners neglected to use aperient medicines, by which the intestines are surcharged, and the urine retained.

Now, there is another variety of distinct smallpox, which has been called the mitigated, modified, and also the varioloid disease, but it is merely a variety of the distinct smallpox. I believe it to be so, because the premonitory symptoms are the same as attend the other or first form of the distinct smallpox. 2. The eruption comes out likewise in the same way. 3. The eruption has the central depression. 4. The pustule has a cellular structure, which is peculiar to smallpox, the pustule being divided into numerous cells. 5. In the fifth place, to put the matter beyond all doubt, it gives rise also to smallpox under all its modifications. What then is the peculiarity of the secondary form of distinct smallpox? It is this; it stops, as it were, in the middle of its progress, on or about the fifth or sixth day, and the pustules are generally smaller and harder. The reason, I believe, why this form of variola has not been noticed as a milder epidemic variety, is partly this, that many who have not examined cases sufficiently for themselves, but have given too much credit to Cullen, the false prophet in the modern medical world. Sydenham does not appear to have met with this form of smallpox, and, as Cullen copied his descriptions from Sydenham, of course it does not afford a part of that nosology, in which some look for every thing, forgetting to persevere the volume of nature.
This modified variola has been supposed to arise from the influence of vaccinia, or cow pox merely. It is not my intention to deny the modifying influence of vaccinia; but I do mean to deny, that it is the sole cause of producing this modified or milder form of the disease; and I deny it, because I have seen several cases of this mitigated or modified small pox, or various disease, arise in children who had never been vaccinated at all. Three children came under my observation who were inoculated with small pox matter; in one of these eruption stopped on the fourth day; in the second it stopped on the sixth day; and in the third it stopped suddenly on the eighth day, when it was apparently assuming the confluent character. I could adduce many cases of the same kind, some arising from inoculation, others from casual infection, entirely distinct from any influence of vaccinia. There is, therefore, a second and a milder form of distinct small pox, which Cullen and his followers have not described. An important question now arises: does vaccinia really mitigate small pox? I have made many minute inquiries on this point, and they have, at least, led me to believe that it does modify, or rather mitigate, subsequent attacks of small pox. People, however, have gone so far as to say, that it does so invariably; but, speaking from the facts which have come under my observation, I should say, that I have seen some children affected with small pox most severely, who have undergone the operation of vaccination, and I am afraid that the truth, the whole truth, has not always been told respecting the character of all the cases which have occurred after vaccination, which notwithstanding, is, in many cases, a complete preventive of small pox, where it is properly performed. (To be continued.)

ACCOUNT OF A NEW SPLINT FOR FRACTURES OF THE FEMUR.

By N. Smith, M. D. Prof. of Surg. &c. in Yale Coll.

The apparatus which I have used for several years past was designed to answer the general indications, and was the result of long experience of the difficulties which attend the treatment of fractures generally, and particularly those of the thigh. It consists of two thin broad pieces of wood so warped as that the concavity of one shall correspond to the convexity of the under surface of the thigh, and the other to that of the leg. The lower extremity of the thigh piece and the upper extremity of that of the leg, are joined together. This is done by paring out the margin of each of them, in the middle, so as to make them deeply concave. The projecting corners of the extremities, which are thus produced, are applied to each other, so that those of the thigh piece embrace and overlap those of the leg piece, and each pair being fastened together by a pin, performing the office of a pivot, a perfect hinge is produced. The apparatus admits of any motion but flexion and extension. The surface of the thigh piece is then pared away, so as to adapt it to the shape of the pelvis against which its circumference rests. Where it presses upon the pubis and the tuber of the ischium, as it may be made to do, it should be bordered with soft leat
ther, and stuffed. The leg piece is to be made longer and larger than the leg, and as its concavity cannot be exactly adapted to the convexity of the limb, this part of the limb is to be slung in the splint, by means of strips of cloth, or leather, which pass across it and hang loosely into its concavity, being attached to one side of the splint by tacks, and on the other by hooks or buckles, which will admit of their being tightened or loosened, as may be necessary, without disturbing the limb. The circumference of the thigh piece is to be a little less at the inferior than at the superior extremity, to adapt it to the tapering shape of the limb. A strap, passing from the upper extremity of the thigh piece, to the lower extremity of that of the leg, will enable the surgeon to fix it at any angle that he pleases.

In applying it, there may be laid along under the whole splint bands of firm cloth, long enough to embrace the splint and the limb. A broad linen cloth may be laid in the thigh piece. The thickness of the band, is to be the size of the one having been adapted to that of the other by measuring the sound limb; the linen cloth may be folded over the limb, and the whole splint then secured to it by overlapping and pinning the bands along its whole length from the hip to the ankle. As the pieces of the splint are flexible, they will be made by the bands to embrace the limb firmly enough, although they may not have been precisely adapted in size. In most instances, in which the limb has been thus dressed, almost every source of pain, whether muscular and to the muscles, I have not found it necessary to use permanent extension. I am confident that the necessity for its use is often occasioned by the apparatus itself which is employed to effect it. Where, however, the fracture is very oblique, and the muscles are disposed to contract and shorten the limb, I have employed a mode of extension, which can be graduated to any degree of force, and which may always be made in the direction of the axis of the thigh bone. It is accomplished by having a soft band attached to the leg, inferior to the knee, and to this attaching a cord, which is carried in the direction of the bone over a pully in a stand nailed to the foot of the bed, and which may be lowered or raised at pleasure. To the end of the cord is attached a weight, equal to the necessary case. The weight of the body makes the counter-extension, which may be increased if necessary, by raising a little the foot of the bed.

The reader will readily perceive that, by this apparatus, all the indications are intended to be answered. The limb may be placed at any angle, which the muscles may require, without all disturbing the fracture. It is completely protected from hurtful pressure, as it rests upon the whole surface of its semi-circumference, and as it is nowhere girt by bandages, being protected from their unequal pressure by the splint, suffering them to touch it only upon its upper surface. Along the angles of the splint and band, there is no pressure at all, so that the blood retention with pain avoided, and the catastrophe of the leg being perfectly commanded by the lower piece, and the limb fixed in any position, its control over the fractured extremities is completely obliterated. The splint being light, and the whole of it attached to the limb, and the support being the splint itself, there is no difficulty in moving the whole limb at once, or in transferring the patient from one bed to another. The bandages may be at any time relaxed without the least danger of disturbing the fracture, they being only necessary to secure the limb when it or the body moves. It is to be particularly noticed, as one of the excellencies of this method, that the weight of the limb itself, and the reaction of the hollow splint in which it is lodged, constitute all the force, which, under ordinary circumstances, is necessary to maintain the reduction. It is particularly adapted to compound fractures, which may be examined and dressed without the least disturbing the limb, and even though the wound be on the under surface, by cutting away a portion of the splint opposite to it. The few words which are necessary to describe this splint, are a sufficient evidence of its simplicity, almost any person can construct it in a very short time. The objections of complication and expense, therefore, which prevent the general use of some others cannot be made to this. I do not, however, rely solely upon the theoretical principles which indicate its use. Its present form is the result of twenty years extensive experience in the employment of some modification of it, and I have never seen sufficient reason to induce me to abandon it for any other.—Amer. Med. Review.

SEMIOTICS OF THE TONGUE.

Is the tone of the Tongue a faithful index of that of the Stomach and Intestines?—A young physician was asked this question, but, his sagacity was undertaken to prove that it is not. According to him, it is not rare to see a complete want of relation between them; a complete discordance even in those cases in which the greatest harmony has been supposed to exist. "At all times," says Pronkies, "when the edges of the tongue, and especially the point, are red, the stomach is laboring under a certain degree of inflammation." This aphorism M. de S. has attempted to combat, and, by the facts adduced, he thinks he has fully established.—1. That the tongue may preserve its ordinary appearance during the existence of a very severe gastritis. 2. That very frequently, when the tongue and stomach present very simultaneously traces of inflammation, there is such disproportion in their intensity that it is impossible to imagine that the one can be the effect of the other. The error of generalising this idea must be avoided; and it is not easy to prove, because the state of the tongue does not always correspond to that of the stomach, that it never does so.—Gazette de Santé, April 25.

COSTIVENESS.

Torpor of the bowels is a common disorder, and often depends upon a deficiency of bile, which is evicted by the stools; but more frequently it is unconnected with this cause, and arises from sedentary habits, night watching, anxiety of mind, and from neglecting to form a habit of invigorating evacuations at stated periods. The loss of the irritations by these means becomes diminished, and their peristaltic action so much enchafed as not to be able to overcome the opposing contraction.
of the sphincter, which allows small evacuations only to be passed, and these frequently so compressed as to cause the idea of stricture or some organic impediment in the intestines; many cases have been erroneously treated as depending on this cause, which immediately and entirely yielded when the contents of the bowels were dislodged, and their tone restored by proper diet and exercise. Constiveness is denoted by a sense of fulness in the bowels, and by the evacuations being small in proportion to the amount taken into the stomach. This habit of body is generally attended with headache, dizziness, disagreeable taste in the mouth, bad breath, want of appetite, palpitation of the heart, and frequently spasmodic attacks in different parts of the body. These symptoms, when they depend upon an inactive state of the bowels, readily yield to the warm bath used once or twice a week, warm resonous purgatives, assisted by castor oil, and the moderate use of animal food twice a day, with regular exercise in the open air. After the intestines have been thoroughly unloaded, the patient should endeavor to procure daily and sufficient relief, by instituting a habit of invigilating evacuations at a certain time in the morning, and that once established, ought not to be interrupted, or deferred beyond the regular and stated period.

Torpor of the bowels is sometimes a consequence of defective biliary secretions. But that the liver is always in fault, in complaints which arise from this source, and that such complaints are only to be remedied by medicine, are mistaken opinions, and too often adopted without sufficient examination; under these impressions, which in numerous instances accord with the patient's wishes of animal indulgences, they take their daily potions, also their dainty dishes and favorite drinks, vainly depending upon a forage of drugs to remove disorders which were created, in the first place, and afterwards kept up, by habits of voluptuousness, or intemperance. Independently of errors of diet or of drinks, the emotions of the mind, and a variable atmosphere, greatly influence the condition and functions of the organs of digestion. Many who are subject to depressed spirits have recourse to wine, or what is worse, to spirituous liquors, in order to raise them. No language can be too strong in which to paint the evil tendency of such practice in its proper colors. The momentary relief which is obtained, is much too dearly bought by the greater languor which succeeds; and the custom of increasing the quantity in order to keep up the effect, ruins the health, and induces the worst diseases and the most miserable state of existence.

IRRITABILITY AND SENSIBILITY.—No. I

Few terms are so generally used by medical men without distinct ideas of their precise signification, as those at the head of this article; and we propose to explain, in a short series of numbers, their true meanings, as understood by the most accurate physiologists.

It is said there is no part of the body which is destitute of sensibility. As far as every part of the body is supplied with nerves, it indubitably possesses sensibility; but, independently of the nerves, no part of the body is endued with this power.

A muscle is not of itself sensible of the impression of an external object, although it be excited by it to motion. The muscular is interwoven with the nervous fibre, and when an irritant object is presented to any part of the living body, it produces two distinct effects; viz.: the sense of pain, and muscular contraction. Now the muscular fibre of the part acted on possesses the power of motion or mobility, and the nervous fibre of this part, has the power of feeling or sensibility. And if the muscular fibre develops its peculiar power when irritated, it possesses the faculty of irritability; and if, when the nervous fibre is irritated, it develops its peculiar faculty, it possesses the faculty of irritability.

Thus it appears that sensibility is a power and peculiar to the nerves; and irritability a faculty, and common to the nervous and muscular fibre.

For the purpose of proving and illustrating this doctrine, we shall, in future numbers, give a comparative view of the philosophy of motion in the animal and vegetable world.

THE INTELLIGENCER.

It has been thought that this little orb of ours, the chief business of which has been to reflect upon the medical world all the light she could gather from the sun, moons and stars which are moving so thickly around her, should deviate somewhat from her human character, and throw more rays of her own creating. The suggestion is a good one, and we intend to profit by it. On reflection, we find so many medical subjects which have been emancipated, within a few years, from almost total darkness, still indistinctly understood by a great majority of the profession. We find so many new instruments recently proposed for the purpose of facilitating the treatment of surgical diseases—so many new remedies for the relief of diseases which have been thought beyond the reach of medicine, and so many distinct notions of the powers and functions of the mind and body of man, where, but a few years ago, all was confusion, or worse than confusion—that we have determined to communicate from our own pen, and with more freedom than we have formerly done, that medical information which it is so difficult to convey by means of extracts and abridgments.

Now that we would relinquish extracts altogether, God forbid that we should be compelled to lay aside the scissors, the great comfort and aid-de-camp of the Editor. But we hope our subscribers will excuse us for protracing more than usual the editorial department of our columns, when they know our reasons are such as we have here described them.

ACUPUNCTURE.

REFLECTIONS ON THE NATURE OF THE ACTION OF ACUPUNCTURE.

Are the therapeutic phenomena produced by acupuncture attributable to the existence of an electric current, or are they only the results of a degree of external irritation produced by the introduction of the needle? The solution of the first question requires that we should enter a little on the consideration of the influence of electricity.

It is thought that electricity, or a fluid analogous to it, exercises an important influence on organized bodies. Two celebrated physiologists have shown, by the most delicate and ingenious experiments, that contractility is entirely owing to electricity. By placing under a microscope some muscular fibres, and causing a current of electricity to pass through them, it was observed that the fibres displayed an undulatory motion, and contracted at different angles. The nervous system forms a complete circle, pervaded by an imperceptible fluid, the exact nature of which it is difficult to determine, whether it be named nervous, galvanic, electric, or electro-magnetic, the encephalon is the grand reservoir of this power, and the nerves are the conductors of it. These cords appear, from the experiments of Magendie, to convey a fluid very analogous to that of electricity, and it appears that their conducting power is greater toward their surface than in their centre. The following experiment proves that the electric fluid exercises an important part in the performance of the functions of the various organs. Place the organs of taste and of sight within the reach of an electric conductor, and sensations will be produced analogous to that naturally produced by these parts. The eye will see luminous sparks, and the tongue will convey the sensation of taste; but that which appears to establish an identity between the electric and nervous fluids is, that the former can be made a substitute for the latter, as is seen in cases of asphyxia. The experiment of Wilsen is well known, and other experiments have been more recently made which confirm the opinions of that physiologist. The nerves passing to the stomach have been divided, the extremities of the divided nerves being kept in contact, digestion continued, but when they were separated digestion ceased.

These experiments, and a multitude of others which might be cited, are to authorize the opinion, that the nervous fluid is identical with the electric; but does that explain the phenomena of acupuncture? Does this fluid escape by the metallic needle?
the needle had been introduced into the thigh of a patient, at La Pitie, about ten minutes, at the time when the areola began to form, that when the needle was touched by another person a slight shock, similar to that communicated by the voltaic pile, was felt. If it was touched too frequently, the power of giving this shock was destroyed, but it recovered the power in the space of a few minutes. This is a solitary case, nothing parallel to it has been observed, although the attention has been particularly di-

But if the means usually employed has failed to detect the existence of an electric current, can the phenomena exhibited by acupuncture be attributed to the oxidation of the metal? This has been the current opinion of late, but which it appears easy to refute. If they were attributable to oxidation, they would only be present when needles were introduced capable of becoming oxidized, but similar phenomena are produced when needles not oxidable are used. It is known that the Chinese use only gold and silver, and what wonder have they not brought by acupuncture?

Acupuncture, on the whole, appears to be merely a mode of producing a certain degree of excitement in a part, which modifies the excess of sensibility by changing the mode of action of the nerves; and that in all cases acts as a revul-
sif, or a counter irritant, in removing the local pain. Many observations, founded on facts, appear to favor this opinion.

1. The impossibility of explaining the therapeutic phenomena by the existence of an electric, galvanic, or electro magnetic current, or by oxidation.

2. The needle, as it passes through the nervous and vascular net-work of the skin, produces pain to a greater or less degree—that cannot be denied. This pain is succeeded by an areola of inflammation.

3. M. Pelletan has observed, that when the parts prickled give much pain, the efficacy of acupuncture is more prompt and decided.

4. By that, the needles act as blisters, and other counter irritants; when introduced for several days in succession for the removal of certain rheumatic or other pains, they must be regarded in the same light as blisters.

5. From the observations made at La Pitie, that acupuncture is a very potent remedy for such neuralgies, rheumatism, and other affections as have an erratic character.

6. That acupuncture does not succeed in removing such affections as are preceded or accompanied by general excitement.

7. In the greatest number of chronic irritations, the introduction of the needle will succeed when that irritation is not attended with any serious injury of the organ.

8. It has been observed, that the revulsion of acupuncture does not succeed so well in a robust individual, or in the organ in which it is employed forms an important part of the animal economy, as the lungs, liver, and stomach.

9. It has been observed, that when the pains, or neuralgies, extend over a great surface, acupuncture has no influence; and that it produces, sometimes, nervous symptoms, when the patients on whom it has been used have been very irritable.

Such are the ingenious investigations of an intelligent French physician on the modus operandi of acupuncture; it is the best attempt at an explanation that we have hitherto met with. A good humored friend of ours, who practised formerly in the country, performed divers cures of chronic neuralgies by acupuncture, to the astonishment of all the old women in the neighborhood. To the numerous inquiries daily made, how can these things be? he gave the following laconic answer, that it all happened by letting out the pus, and that we have only the appearance of a cure, and perhaps we may adopt it with as much propriety as any other which has yet been offered.

VARITIES.

Quackery, again.—Died, in Newport, N. H., 29th ult. Charles Mason Thatcher, son of Elias Thatcher, aged 12. The death of this promising child affords another instance of the fatal effects attending the horrid system of quackery which is practised and countenanced by the ignorant in many parts of the country. The deceased was attacked with the prevailing epidermic distemper, and the case was regarded as desperate by Dr. Boyd, who considered the case, although an obstinate one, as by no means desperate. From the representations of so many of the friends of the family, they were informed that the medical men of the neighborhood recommended to the name of Holman, who has for some time been practising about the environs of the town. He commenced operations by steaming, and administering red pepper and lobelia, at a time when the patient was wasting, and, as the description was forced down the child's throat, notwithstanding its extricacies and cries that he would desist. The boy repeatedly begged of his mother to take him home, but the doctor's hands, but he begged in vain. The absurd course was pursued until the third day, when the child died. We cannot find words to express our horror of the villainous transaction, and we consider those persons who are countenancing and advocating this system of wicked empiricism as little less blamable than the scooudry who administers the fatal preparation, without a pretension to science, or the slightest knowledge of the delicate system with which he is tampering.—Newport Spectator.

DEMENNESS CURED BY STEAM.—Between two and three months ago, a young girl, who belonged to a prosperous family, lost her voice and became quite dumb in consequence of an inflammation of the lungs. The most eminent of the faculty there declared that they could do nothing for her. Her mother then applied to the learned Sir Astley Cooper, and about a month ago she embarked on board the Edinburgh Castle steam packet for that purpose. The machinery of the engine became inactive, and suddenly recovered the use of her language, which she exercised sufficiently until her return home, no doubt under the apprehension, that if she did not, there might be danger of a relapse.

ACTION OF POISONS UPON THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM.—A very interesting memoir, by M. F. Marchet, on the action of poisons upon vegetable life, has been read to the Societé de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle of Geneva by the learned Mr. Marchet, who, in the course of his investigation, he instituted was, in the first place, to ascertain the action of those poisons which act on animals by inflam-

10. Curries Change in the Color of Oxides of Cobalt and Zinc.—It has been observed, that when a mixed solution of zine and cobalt is precipitated, so as to furnish a mixture of the oxides, and this mixture is dried and washed with a solution of neutral alkali, which, heated in a close vessel, loses its white and assumes a beautiful green color, though the oxide of cobalt does not amount to one sixth part of the whole mixture. It has been observed, that this compound may become a valuable pigment.

SMALL-FOX.—M. Castor has proved, from observations made last year, that a commencement of that period this disease destroyed in Prussia 10,000 children in 100,000, while at present the mortality in the same number is only 333. The夯实 was highly communicable, and first the disease was discovered in the neighborhood of Natchez, but it is now high among the Negroes. It is recommended inoculation in the same manner, by receiving it themselves, on its first introduction in France.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—The Professors have come to a determination that henceforth no candidate shall be admitted for examination for the degree of M. D. unless he has studied four years in college, instead of two. As the duration of the law which must attend to three new branches of medical science in addition to the nine hitherto taught, on all of which he must be examined, prior to graduation.

PETRIFIED WOOD.—(Wood changed to stone.) An excessive drought, in 1800, displayed to view, on the bottom of the Mississippi river near Natchez, a flat of more than 100 paces, which was never before visible to human eyes. On this flat were to be seen trunks of trees in a complete state of petrifaction, bearing no marks of timber but the form. On the same flat lie the bones of the animal, from the necks of walnuts to that of large pots, which have the appearance of stone. Petrified trunks and branches of trees are often found in other states.

HYDROPONIA.—Several persons have been bitten by mad dogs in Rockville, Md. Those bitten are directed to some woman who professes to cure the disease. If she knows how to cure this terrible disease, and keeps secret her art, for purposes of profit, she mer-

Breccia.—An alkali extracted from the bark of the Brassa anticyndertica, or false Augustum, and found also in the yonica. It is intensely bitter, but slightly soluble in water, and on cooling takes the consistency of a paste. It forms neutral salts with the acids. It is a narcotic, but about six times weaker than strychnine. The dose is from one to three grains.

ARTIFICIAL COLOG.—Buginonelli informs us, that spirit of wine, ether, &c. mixed in certain proportions, with snow, afford temperatures as low as those produced by sea-salt.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,
Ending December 19th, from the Health-Office Returns.

Dec. 9th.—Francis Fay, 5 w., Etonic Townshend, 60th. —Child of John Petterson; Mary Taylor, 30th. —Abraham Williams, 30; Stephen Ben, 54; Child of William McClennen, jr. —Child of John Bennett. 11th.—Nathaniel Chapman, 44; Mary Taylor, 30. —William McClennen, 32; Sarah Wood, 54; Thos. McClennen, 32; Cyrus Wilson, 53; Thomas Robbins, 39; Susan Tyler, 36; Child of David Wells, 7 hours. —Sarah Gurney, 80; Child of William Church. 14th.—Samuel Carey, 11; Robert Kelum, 11 m. Martin Underwood, 52; Michael Mansfield, 43; James Maxwell, 85; Charles Harper, 26. —Benjamin White Bass, 21. —Eliz. G. Kidder, 9 months.

Lung Fever, 1; Stiltborn, 4; Consumption, 3; Paralysis, 1; Bilious Colic, 1; Typhus Fever, 1; Intermittent Fever, 1; Staphylococcus, 1; Sudden, 1; Old Age, 1; Gass, 1; City Poor, 3.
OBSERVATIONS.

DR ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

SMALL Pox.

(Continued from page 126.)

The Confluent Small Pox is the third form, respecting which I shall now make a few remarks.

You may generally be apprized of the disorder being likely to turn out confluent by the precursory symptoms, which set in more severely. When you had a patient complaining of pains in the head and back, the respiration being hurried and anxious, the pulse quicker and the skin hotter than natural, and the stomach much disturbed, you may suspect, from the violence of the symptoms, that the affection may pass to the confluent character, and the more especially, if on examining the patient minutely, you discover a very great number of small red specks approaching each other on the surface, accompanied by considerate inflammation about the throat.

As far as the character of the fever is concerned, there are two forms attendant on the confluent variety, and it is of the utmost importance to distinguish them in practice. The first form of fever is open, attended by an intense heat and dry skin, by a very quick bounding pulse, by a moist tongue, excessive thirst, and great restlessness. This open, or ardent form of fever goes on, under its highly developed type, for four, five, or six days, and then it is remarkably changed; the heat falls upon the surface of the body, the pulse becomes soft and compressible, the tongue glazed and often brownish, the breathing weak, and the face dusky; in short, the change is precisely similar to that which takes place in the first open form of typhus fever, and is owing to the same cause, viz., the development of the bronchial affection. Now what takes place here in four, five, or six days in the open form of fever, takes place at or about the onset in the second form of fever attending small pox, for then the bronchial affection is so urgently developed as to smother or mask the fever.

In the first form, in which the fever is open, the face swells soon, and does not subsides so quickly as it does in the distinct variety; the eruption appears as usual, and the fever does not leave the patient on the appearance of the eruption, but continues, and even increases, until the bronchial affection sets in decidedly, and the fever puts on the typhoid aspect, when the most remarkable changes are produced with respect to the heat, pulse, respiration, color, and strength of the patient. If this change does not take place till the seventh or eighth day, the pustules go on filling, but if the bronchial affection occurs much earlier, it arrests the eruption, for then the pustules become flatter, a change always observed with great alarm, and properly too, by poor persons, who say, "Ah!" or "Oh dear! how flat the pox has become!"

Papules sometimes form, or spots of effused blood, which are rarely ever found in fever, where the bronchial affection is not present. Now when this bronchial affection is early and intensely developed, the patient has a dry glazed tongue, a sorer heat upon the surface, a soft compressible pulse, a weak breathing, a purple lip, a husky voice, and the pustules never rise much, and have a dull mulberry sort of appearance at first. The open form of fever, which attends the confluent small pox first described, generally occurs in strong robust persons, whereas the other, or masked form, generally occurs in weak persons, especially among the tabid children of London, who are badly fed and clothed, and who live in close and confined situations.

Cause.

You must have perceived from what has been already said, that variola is a specific affection; that it arises from a peculiar cause, namely, a conglomeration, and how this was at first generated—how it arose de novo, we do not know; however, there are sufficient proofs that a contagious essence is now the only known cause. That the blood becomes tainted is unquestionable, because a secretion is given off, which being received into the body of another produces a like disorder. This condition of the blood, under given circumstances, occasions similar effects on certain structures, and in a pathological view may be considered as one of the causes which influences, perhaps according to its degree, the character of small pox.

2. A second cause which modifies small pox is the condition of the atmosphere. It is a very remarkable fact, that those children who live in cellars generally have the small pox in the confluent form, whereas those children who live in open streets, or in gardens, where there is a free circulation of air, most frequently have it in the distinct form. It is also a curious fact, that certain countries are affected differently at different times. Humphrey, in his travels in South America, mentions that it is far more fatal at some seasons than in others; sometimes passing over the earth like a destroying angel, and sometimes being comparatively harmless. Perhaps we might make a near approach towards explaining such differences, if an accurate register were kept of all the concurring circumstances, physical and moral, an examination very remarkable in the recorded histories of diseases. No men should be more remote observers than medical philosophers.

3. A third cause which influences small pox is what is called the constitution of the patient, and this you know, when separated into parts, may be hereditary, an asthenic, a sexual, or an acquired peculiarity. All men whose mucous membranes are predisposed, are apt to have the small pox severely, and hence its fatality among pale puny children, and hence the great utility of preserving the general health of children, by the means which I formerly mentioned.

4. In the fourth place, the medical treatment may influence the small pox, and hence the hot regimen was so mortify in the time of STREPHAM. Prejudices, indeed, descend from the profession to the public, so that even new, among the vulgar, we frequently find instances of small pox which had been made distinct from the beginning, and which had been made confluent in every progress by an adherence to the old practice—the hot regimen, a part, forsooth, of that wisdom of our ancestors for which we still have so many sticklers, if not in this, at least in other departments of medical science. Truly some men are so fond of antiquity, that if their grandfathers and grandmothers had shaved themselves with a wooden razor, they would certainly not only do the same, but protest against the introduction of a steel one as a dangerous innovation. On the whole, however, we may rejoice that improvement in our profession with its progressive and permanent, whatever difficulties the human mind may have to encounter in other provinces in its various attempts to ameliorate the condition of mankind. But to return from this digression to the immediate objects of the lecture.

I do not recollect that I ever saw a patient die of distinct small pox; the reason of that is, because the disorder, as far as its internal pathology is concerned, is that of simple excitement; or if any inflammation should exist, it is so slight about the fauces and air passages as to be removed by the natural efforts of the system, or rather by that increased secretion which takes place on the mucous surface. But the confluent small pox is often fatal. The first form, that in which the fever is openly and highly developed, is an internal inflammatory affection, as far as its internal pathology is concerned. The inflammation exists on the mucous membrane of the fauces; it extends to that of the pharynx; it passes down that of the larynx and trachea, and then reaches the ramifications of the bronchial. This you will find in every fever where you examine the body carefully after death. In some cases, traces of inflammation will be found in the brain, where delirium had occurred during life, and occasionally the remains of inflammation of the lining of the bowels, the symptoms of which had been present during the progress of the disorder. In the second form, where the fever is masked, the morbid appearances are similar; but in such cases the bronchial affection is so excessive as to prevent the blood undergoing its natural changes through the lungs to any extent, and therefore all the powers of life fail so remarkably from an early period. You will see an excellent account of the morbid anatomy of small pox in an able paper which Mr Alococ published, in the Medical Intelligencer—an account which exactly coincides with what I have myself observed; but the uniformity of this occurrence in confluent small pox can only be referred to some morbid condition of the blood, sided by these concurring causes which I pointed out before.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.

M. Bailly lately read a memoir on the duration of intermittent fever. He gave, as the result of a very considerable number of observations, made in different climates, as Rome, Mont-
pelier, Lyons, and Canada, that the mean duration of intermittent fevers, which had ever been observed there, has been regularly fourteen days. One thing remarkable is, that this mean duration of two weeks, which has never been altered by the influence of climate, nor by the various curative modes of treatment employed, is precisely that of most acute diseases, and which have ever been known to have a remarkable tendency to run their course in the same time. Such an analogy might readily act as a powerful motive to associate these two species of affections, the identity of which is hereby proved, according to the author, by the traces of inflammation which are subsequently observed in nearly all the internal organs after intermittent fever.

The author next enters into a consideration of the physiological cause which occasions a disease to prolong itself naturally a determinate time. — The light in which M. Bailly considers this circumstance deserves some notice:—"Inflammations," says he, "are not the mere result of the accumulation of blood in such or such an organ; they consist in a fixed and permanent alteration of diseased tissue, and this alteration cannot be done away with but by the changes that determine nutrition, and the processes of nutrition are necessarily slow and successive. It follows that every inflammation ought to take a determinate time in getting to its acme and to disappear. It is experiment alone which can teach how many organic changes are requisite to sufficiently alter a structure to produce inflammation in it; and if intermittent fevers take twice seven days, or two weeks to cure themselves, we ought to conclude that the internal organs, when they are inflamed, require this space of time to return again to their healthy state. The singular tendency which most diseases have of advancing by sevens, ought not to surprise us much, since the organic movement of the healthy state observes a similar course. The first denition shows itself infants about the seventh month, and the second towards the seventh year. Menstruation returns also at the end of four times seven days, and the continuance of each returns last about the same time." M. Bailly, in conclusion, urges the necessity of confining ourselves, on the first appearance of intermittent fevers, to the treatment usually adopted in inflammations, and to reserve the febrifuges, or acrid medicines, for the period when the disease of the internal organs being removed, the fever no longer consists but of a nervous periodical affection, which would result, according to the author, from the morbid susceptibility contracted by the organization. — Arch. Gen.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

BY JAMES FIELD, M. D. LONDON.

The public mind has of late years been much attracted towards the subject of Diseases of the Spine. The column of bones, to which the term Spine has been affixed, effects so essential a purpose in the architecture of the human frame, that whatever may tend to destroy its effectual agency, whether they arise from affection of the pillar itself, or of its collateral supports, endangers the safety and well-being of the whole living fabric. The number of writers who have made these diseases the object of their inquiries shows, either that the disorders in question have become much more frequent than formerly, or that the attention of the public, and of medical practitioners, has, from some cause or other, been invited to the more attentive consideration of them; or that the latter have become better informed of the causes, symptoms, and modes of efficiently treating this class of disorders. Be this as it may, it is certain that, amongst those writers who have written on spinal diseases, there exists much discrepancy of opinion, both as to the causes and indications of cure in many cases of spinal deformity. The etiology offered by some, to explain the deranged condition of the vertebral column, has been declared to be, by competent judges of the case, impossible; and some methods of cure, founded upon the theories proposed, have been pronounced to be as irreconcilable with the anatomical structure of the parts, as inconsistent with fair physiological deduction. Other writers on the diseases in question, have assigned causes for them, consistent with the medical philosophy of the day; and have suggested modes of treatment in strict accord with those principles. That the subjects of Curvature of the Spine are to be looked for amongst the young of the softer sex, and amongst the higher classes of society, is a fact which will not be denied. The female offspring of those whose circumstances authorize it, and whose station requires a luxurious style of living, and the refinements of a fashionable life, are too often the victims of a system of education, the details of which during childhood, but principally during adolescence, exhibit a disregard to the indications of nature in respect of the physical perfection of the form and a recklessness of the means by which the material organism is to acquire growth and development. It is not surprising, therefore, that while the intellectual advancement of the pupil has been ensured, and the progress in elegant accomplishments rendered satisfactory to the teacher, and delightful to the parent, that the physical education of the scholar has been neglected, and his fitness for undertaking the active exercise of life impaired. A young lady, legitimately educated, is taught to avoid all awkward movements,—to maintain an upright carriage of the person in walking, and an elegant position at the harp and piano forte; while those habits and exercises, to which the playfulness restless activity, and buoyant spirit of childhood have such invincible propensity, are proscribed; or, if not totally interdicted, are admitted with such restraints, and under such modifications, as materially to weaken their effect in unfolding and improving the physical powers. The writer boldly asserts, that, with the refined parts of the education of girls, a certain degree of hystidemia must be tolerated—a dispensation from the rigid rules of the dancing and the drilling master. But shall the daughter of a peer,—of a cabinet minister,—of a senator,—must a young lady born to a carriage, be seen whirling in ungraceful attitudes, or skipping and scampering like the girls of a village? If health be an object worth pursuing, this must be permitted. Some one has observed, that the actions of young children are always graceful; and who can witness the gaiety and giddiness, the romping and rioting of childhood, without feelings of delight? Of delight enhanced by the conviction, that these attributes of the youthful state are at once the evidences of health, and the means by which health is to be maintained. If, then, Curvature of the Spine, and other diseases depending upon an anomaly of the physical structure, are to be prevented, let the energy and activity of youth be encouraged; and let the usages of schools and families be more accordant with the plans and practices of rustic life. The symmetry of the female figure—the perfection of which has been the beau ideal of the poet, the study of the painter and the sculptor, will not be impaired by the addition of firmness and tone which a round of natural and unforced exercises, if they be carried even to the ultra point of girlish frolic, tend to promote. "Surely it is not necessary," says the author of the Study of Medicine, in order to acquire all the air and gracefulness of fashionable life, to banish from the hours of recreation the old national amusements of battledore and shuttlecock, of tennis, trap-ball, or any other game that calls into action the bending as well as the extending and inclining of the whole body. It was asserted by Burke, that an appearance of fragility was essential to female beauty; and it has been asserted that the appearance of helplessness gave additional charms to the feminine form—but these notions are erroneous; the fragile and helpless woman will, in most cases, with the loss of strength and activity, have to lament the departure of personal attractions.

IRRITABILITY AND SENSIBILITY.—NO. II.

It is generally thought that the motion occasionally produced by the leaves of the sensitive plant is prompted by a sense of uneasiness. Philosophers, led astray either by the prejudices of their simpler years, or by the band of blinded imagination, have honored the opinion of the populace, and attempted to prove that motion implies sensibility. But sensibility implies an idea—an idea, mind;—thus have they been led to conclusions as devious from truth as their reasoning from the right principles of logic. Percival attributes to vegetables the faculties of the external senses, and the power of perception and volition. Darwin invests them with the passion of love, and the capacity of enjoyment and suffering; but many things that are thought to be science are in truth nothing but poetry; and although the speculations of Darwin may afford fine allusions for the orator, and amusements for the curious scholar, the physiologist can never rest upon them with confidence. Uninfluenced, then, by these vague speculations, we shall first inquire whether motion always implies sensibility.

2d. Attempt to prove by investigating nature, and not by metaphysical argument, that it is by irritability alone the phenomena of vegetable growth and motion are to be explained.

1st. ANIMAL SENSIBILITY.

The principal difficulty which has prevented men from arriving at the true explanation of the phenomena of motion, is the want of distinct ideas of the property on which stimuli act to induce it. The structure of every part of the body is such as to render it capable of motion, but only capable as a human body is capable of moving when destitute of vitality; the structure of one muscle is no more sufficient to produce motion than the structure of dead matter to produce phenomena of life.

* Essay on the Sublime and Beautiful.
† Besides this theory of structure many physiologists have advocated as many different opinions of the cause
If irritability be given to the latter, it is made capable in a higher sense of exciting the functions to which its structure was adapted; and on the application of stimulus these functions are actually induced. —So, if irritability be given to the former, it is rendered in a higher sense capable of exciting the functions of motion to which its structure was adapted, and on the action of a stimulus motion is actually induced. Irritability then is a principle or property on which stimuli act to induce motion. Sensibility is entirely distinct; it can never exist without nerves, and is peculiar to the organs of the external senses—the media through which the mind acquires ideas of external objects.

So commonly are the motions of our own muscles produced by the exercise of the will to avoid evil or procure good, that these two properties of sensibility and irritability are frequently confounded; and it has been advocated by acute physiologists that they have a mutual dependence, and that one cannot exist without the other. 

But the admirable system of Eichelt cannot for a moment be doubted; a little reflection will convince us that the brain and nerves, with the various powers they possess, and functions they perform, are peculiar to animal life. If then the nerves, which are the organs of sense, are peculiar to animals, and motion occurs in vegetable life, the power of being excited to motion exists where there are no organs of sense, and consequently no sensibility. This doctrine has been advocated with most zeal and ability by M. de Haller; he was opposed with no less ardor by Dr. Whytt, who asserts that "a certain power or influence lodged in the brain, spinal marrow, and nerves, is either the immediate cause of the contraction of the muscles of animals, or at least necessary to it." We have reason to rejoice that the laws of physiologists are not found in courts, and that every one is at liberty to question their correctness. The first and principal argument of Dr. Whytt to prove that the muscles have no distinct power of irritability, is—that a stimulus, as a pin, applied to a nerve produces strong convulsive motions, whilst the same stimulus applied to a muscle or tendon produces little or none.

The nerves convey impressions not only from mind to muscle, but from muscle to mind; they execute the commands of the will, and carry to the mind the tidings of pleasure and of pain. Whilst the nerves have such an intimate connection with the mind and the muscle, if it be itself irritated between the organ of motion and the brain, it produces perception in one, and motion in the other; the influence is exalted in proportion to the degree; exercising toward each its proper function, but in an irregular manner and morbid degree,—exciting extreme pain on the one side, and extreme contractions on the other. We have no reason to infer of motion—_as may be seen by consulting F. Hoffman, Syst. Med. Ligueur El. Phys. Soman Traité du Coeur, Dr. Robinson's An. Acon., Langtry's Cours Exter., Dr. Bains—Hartley—Darwin's Phy. and Zoo. Brown on Darwin. Percival in Mon. Men. &c.

Some, says he, "refer the sense of irritability, but this hypothesis is a solecism and refutes itself; for the presence of irritability can only be proved by the experience of irritations, and the idea of irritations involves in it that of sensation and motion." On vital and other involuntary motions, Section 1st. Dr. Hartley also entertained the opinion that "the white medullary substance of the brain, the spinal marrow—and the nerves proceeding from them, are the immediate instrument of sensation and motion."

Observations on Irritability. Section II.

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From this that irritability on the one hand depends on the nerves, and that they are necessary to its existence, than that mind on the other depends on them and that they are necessary to the existence of mind. If the nerve be cut, it no more destroys the irritability to which it conveyed commands, than the mind from which it received them. The former, therefore, as the latter, has an independent existence.

When the power peculiar to the nerves is excited to action by an exertion of the mind or by external causes, it acts as a direct stimulus on the irritability, and the effects are developed in the phenomena of motion.

This nervous power is the natural, and therefore the most effectual stimulus which can be applied to muscular irritability; and thus by thrusting a pin into the nerve, greater contraction would be induced than if the same stimulus had been applied directly to the muscle or its extremity, just as much weight falls a greater weight through the medium of its arm, than when applied directly to the object to be raised.

Another argument of Dr. Whytt is, that if parts unconnected with the brain cannot feel, how is it that a pigeon not only lives several hours after being deprived of its head, but also flies on one place another? Although motion is a sign of life, yet the existence of motion no more implies the existence of any other peculiarity of life, than the loss of sight implies the loss of any other of the external senses; and if these motions of a pigeon can be explained by irritability alone, we have no right to suppose another power concerned in producing them; for by all philosophy we are forbidden to multiply causes. It is not only unnecessary, but erroneous, to suppose any other of the vital properties remained after decalculation; for, as we have before seen, the powerful irritation produced on the spinal marrow by the knife, would be sufficient to cause the most violent and confirmed contractions in all the muscles—and even violent and irregular motions of the body. This then is not a proof that sensibility remained after decalculation, but an argument in favor of a principle before stated,—that stimuli communicated through the nerves, act most powerfully on the irritability.

That it is mere irritability which thus remains after the head of the viper and other animals has been separated from the body, will be clearly discerned if we consider that in living animals stimuli produce motion first in the muscles to which they are applied, and second in parts that are remote; thus snuff in the nose produces sneezing, and by the irritation of particular parts vomiting is induced—the parts influenced through the medium of the nerves always being most powerfully affected. After decalculation we find the first is the only kind of motion which can be produced; the coals of the stomach, the intestine rectum, and the neck of the bladder may be irritated, and motion induced in them, but no corresponding motion occurs in the muscles. In the nerves, then, on which this sympathy depended, we have lost their power—the nervous influence was destroyed, yet motion (of the first kind) was induced; motion, therefore, sometimes occurs where the properties of the nerves are wanting—irritability sometimes exists in parts that are wholly destitute of sensibility.

Having an idea of irritability and sensibility as totally distinct, we ought to inquire whether the former is affected immediately, or through the medium of the latter; for if stimuli act first on the latter, the phenomena of irritation would imply sensibility, although they are entirely distinct, and have an independent existence. It becomes us then to ascertain whether—when a stimulus is applied to a muscle and induces motion, the nerves receive the impression and convey it to the irritability, or, whether it is received first by the irritability, and the nerves are affected by the irritation produced.

There appears to be little doubt that the irritability is primarily affected by stimuli, and that the nerves can receive no impression from without but through the intervention of the former. For, if the order in which these two orders are developed is different, it follows that if sensibility is removed, the phenomena of irritation cannot be induced. But see the experiments in which they say thus separated. The head of a chicken was cut off, and motion induced in the heart many hours afterwards; and we have already seen that there is no feeling after the brain is removed. There have been men, too, who have remained for years with limbs entirely destitute of feeling, and yet the irritability of their muscles continued uneasiness to receive and be influenced by the impression of external objects; so that irritability is displayed in parts totally disconnected with the centre of sensa, and in parts where the organs of sense were totally destroyed. We conclude therefore that irritability does in no sense imply sensibility, but on the other hand exists as it were between sensibility and external objects. Irritability stands at one extremity of the nerves, and mind at the other. It is, as it were, an advanced guard, that receives all intelligence; the nerves are the vidiates which carry it to the brain—the generalisation of all the forces of the realm, the absolute monarch of the man.

Having seen that irritability and sensibility are totally distinct, and that the former does not imply the latter, we are ready to believe that motion may be induced without brain or nerves—without intelligence or feeling.

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DECEMBER.

The principal disorders during the present month have been of an inflammatory nature, most frequently occurring about the throat and air-passage, sometimes extending to the lining of the branches of the wind-pipes, occasioning cough, hoarseness, thirst, lassitude, want of appetite, &c. denominated cold, or catarrh, according as they are more or less severe. Every motion is furnished with so many remedies for complaints of this kind, handed down, by mothers to daughters, from the old times of simple living and long life, that it would not be becoming in us to intrude our advice where it is not wanted. A cold, however, it should be borne in mind, though in itself a slight disease, is often the forerunner of that highly dangerous, and generally fatal complaint, consumption. The inflammation is communicated from the lining membrane of the lungs to their substance, causing ulceration, and hectic fever succeeds. Sometimes it occasions asthma, or dropsy in the chest. It should not, therefore, be neglected; but only the most simple precautions, except when the disease is of peculiar severity, are requisite. When the inflammation extends to the substance of the lungs, it may be known by a hard, harsh, grating sort of cough, the noise of which seems limited to a circumscribed space in the chest,—the expectoration is scanty, and for some time, a tenacious yellowish mucous,—the pulse is generally flagging, the respiration heavier or more oppressed than natural, and though there is cough, pain is often absent. In this state, or in the commencement of chronic inflammation of the
FOISONING BY LAUDANUM.

A poor child, about 5 years of age, was brought to the Middlesex Hospital, London, on Tuesday evening, under the following circumstances. The child had been ailing for some days, and being very restless, the mother purchased some Laudanum, with which she gave the child about two spoonfuls. This quantity, as might naturally be supposed, produced the most alarming symptoms, and a medical man was called to the child, who prescribed one grain and a half of tartar emetic, which produced no effect. The symptoms continuing, the child was brought to the Hospital.

At this time there was complete immobility and insensibility, with cold extremities, cadaverous countenance, and the lips and face of a livid hue. The respiration was scarcely perceptible, and the pulse was exceedingly feeble. Eight grains of sulphate of zinc dissolved in water were immediately given, which failed to produce any effect. It was CONVL sad that the congestive state might be relieved by putting the child in a warm bath; this measure was adopted. Small doses of ipecacuanha with antimonial wine were administered, which produced three copious evacuations; after which the child appeared to be somewhat relieved from its previous state of profound lethargy, and evinced a partial return of sensibility. The warm bath had a decidedly beneficial effect, in inducing a flow of blood to the surface, and thus relieving the vital organs. The child was kept roused for some time, the power of sensibility and motion were very feeble, but after a few hours it was allowed to sleep. On the following morning, Dr. Southerly and Dr. Hawkes saw the little patient, the prognosis of these two sagos was that the child would not recover, but it was sufficiently well to leave the Hospital on the following day.

VARIETIES.

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.—The extraordinary operation of taking blood from the veins of one individual, and ejecting it into those of another, was lately performed at the Hospital of the Holy Innocents, London, upon a poor woman, aged twenty-five years. She was to all appearance dying from loss of blood, after a severe labour; when Dr. Blundell (seeing the imminent danger of the case) bled bare one of the veins of her left arm, taking care to prevent the blood from flowing from the orifice. The husband of the woman, who was a robust man, was then called in, and two ounces of blood taken from his arm into a glass syringe, and, being thus filled, was used, in the syringe, slowly thrown into the vein of the woman, in the direction of the heart; in about ten minutes the woman rallied and gradually recovered. The syringe was employed over the hand, a pipe was fixed to the mouth, about two inches long, and of the size of a crow-quill, shaped like a pen, but with a blunt point. All was carefully expelled from the syringe when used.

REFRIGERATING SALTS.—If we mix 57 parts of muriate of potash with 32 of muriate of ammonia, and 10 of nitrate of potash, the mixture will be produced. This salt, put in four parts of water, and quickly agitated, will make the mercury descend from 20 deg. a degree below zero in Racoon's thermometer.

EVAPORATION.—M. Pouillet, from experiments he has made, infers—1. That, during the evaporation of perfectly pure water, so electricity is evolved. 2. That, when water contains certain alkaline in solution, electricity is evolved, which is vitreous when the alkali is fixed, and resinous when the alkali is volatile, as ammonium.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending December 23; from the Health-Office Returns.

December 14th.—Charles Harper, 26. 15th.—John Dearborn Colby, 4 mo. 16th.—James Pearson Colby, 4 mo. 17th.—James Campbell; 41; John Conley, 16 y.; John Hadley, 47; Michael Whiston, 27; Humphrey Wildin, 56. 18th.—Child of Michael Foley, 2 hours; Michael Dewey, 2 1/2; Phillis Nichols, 7; Joseph Higgins, 66; Child of James Nichols, 30 hours; John Nichols, 27. 19th.—Rachel Gale, 10; Silver Thoro O'Flannigan, 51; Susanna Thurston, 50; Jonathan Hough, 61; David Hulick, 59. 20th.—Samuel Kingham, 30. 21st.—Adeline Simes, 33. 22d.—Mary Story, 60; Lydia Russell, 59; Priscilla Badger, 26; Catharine Stevens, 33; Ellen Cook, 7. 23d.—John Knowles, 54. 24d.—Child of Joseph Johnson; Eliza- 

B. 1907. Vac

Medical School of Maine.

The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 20th day of February, 1826.

The Library already embraces the most valuable modern works on Medicine, and its Collaborative Science; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and American.

Vaccination.

The undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others. Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than 4 years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance. Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: Private Tickets at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and Public Tickets of thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons registered to the use of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and no warehouse matter for said tickets will be made; whereas all particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made. Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense. All the privileges of this Institution and advantages hereunto offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid.

JAMES SMITH.

Rutland, Sept. 20, 1825.

(67) The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law to "encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr. Smith, but the effect of a most important discovery and showed that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected by the party at the time, and could not have been guarded against. This is not a more full statement of the case, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr. Smith, 3d April, 1824, to Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, to whom it was referred. This report exculpates Dr. Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.
OBSERVATIONS.

DR. ARMSTRONG'S LECTURES
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

SMALL POX.

(Concluded from page 129.)

Diagnosis.

There is only one affection which could be confounded with variola, and that is the chicken pox, or the varicella. Dr. Thompson, the deservedly distinguished lecturer on physic in Edinburgh, has attempted to show, in an able work, that varicella is only a modification of the smallpox; and though my own observations would incline me to a different opinion, yet I would strongly recommend you to peruse that work, since Dr. Thompson's experience, in this affection, is far more extensive than mine. But supposing you were asked what are the differences between chicken pox and smallpox, what would you say? I might say,—1. That the precur- sory symptoms are slighter; 2. The eruption is more regular as to its time, form, and continuance; 3. The vesicle is not so well defined; 4. The areola is not so vivid and raised round the cuticle—it is not cellular; 5. It has not the central depression; 6. It arises much sooner to the full size, and is apt to be ruptured by the movements of the body; 7. The scab is flatter and comes off earlier. Thus I have enumerated eight distinctive marks, but at the same time it is right to say, that in the milder forms of smallpox and in the severe forms of chicken pox, it is so difficult to distinguish the one from the other; and, though my own observations on the central depression, you could not discriminate the one from the other. I have never seen the central depression absent in smallpox, and what is remarkable have never seen it present in the chicken pox.

Treatment.

With respect to the treatment of smallpox, you must have perceived that it requires to be varied, as the disorder varies, the treatment ought not to be uniformly the same. Now supposing that you were called in the beginning of the eruptive fever, where you had every reason to suspect that the eruption would follow, pray what would you do? Why, you should investigate whether that fever be simple or inflammatory, and act just as you would if there were to be no smallpox in the question. If the eruptive fever be rightly managed, according to its simple or inflammatory character, the subsequent smallpox will generally be very mild indeed. If the fever be simple, then a saline appetizer, a light diet, a cool, light bed, with rest, and tepid ablutions, will answer every purpose; but if the fever be inflammatory you must use bloodletting, according to its seat and degree, or rather according to those principles which I have previously laid down. When the eruption comes out and is distinct, let the patient be kept at rest, the diet be spare; let the apartment be moderately cool, let it be refreshed by daily ventilation; keep the bowels gently, very gently, open, and every thing will do well. Recollect that it has a determinate duration, and do not adopt too active a treatment, for really a mild one alone is necessary in such cases.

With respect to the confluent form of smallpox, the treatment must be different. Supposing you were called to a patient laboring under the eruptive fever, which threatened a confluent form, then you would of course prescribe first, according to the degree of that fever, and secondly, according to the nature and extent of the local affection with which it might be complicated. You would, in a word, pursue an ever changing plan, according to the circumstances and pathological conditions indicated. But suppose you were called to a patient when the eruption had come out, the tongue being white and moist, the skin hot and dry, and the pulse hard and strong, would you give that patient wine and bark because he had the confluent form of smallpox?—Most certainly not. If Sydenham could rise from his grave, now that a century and a half have rolled away, he would find that the wine and bark system still prevailed, and would again express his astonishment at the continuance of so mortal a mistake. Confluent smallpox, under its most ardent and open form, is most highly inflammatory, and for the first three or four days is in the most favorable condition for the use of bloodletting, and yet, Gracious God! wine and bark are indiscriminately recommended. But I must protest, in the strongest manner, against this practice; it is absurd—it is preposterous—it is disgraceful to the age; and what is the consequence of it? Why, that all the patients die under this form where this treatment is adopted—at least I can affirm, that I never saw one recover. Recollect, however, carefully recollect, that I only recommend bloodletting at an early stage of this confluent form of smallpox, while the heat is high, the pulse hard, the tongue moist—as long. I repeat, as these symptoms continue, you may save many lives by bloodletting, and an antiphlogistic regimen. Bleed decisively at first, and generally mild measures will do afterwards; for if you repeat the bleeding too copiously the patient will sink. The late Mr Charles Haden treated several cases successfully on these principles; Mr Alcock has been extremely successful by a similar plan, and I could advance several examples in proof of its superior efficacy, under the circumstances before mentioned. In truth, bleeding has been recommended by the first authority in the early period of confluent smallpox as an efficacious remedy, and among those may be enumerated Ilizarov, Sydenham, Mead, Priest, and Huxham. But unfortunately they did not point out distinctly the conditions under which they used bloodletting, and the abuse of the measure, together with the introduction of the false and fatal doctrine, any speculation, of abstract debility, has brought bloodletting into undeserved repute. If you were to lose the first few days, while the excitement runs high and the tongue remains moist, and if you were, desperately rash, to bleed when the tongue has become glazed and brown, the pulse soft and com-
not only are persons who visited the sick liable to be attacked by small pox, but they in their turn propagate the distemper among others. This double proof is applicable to small pox, measles, scarlet fever, and hooping cough; but I have not been able, since I have divested my mind of prejudice, to find any similar proof of the contagious nature of typhus fever, though I have sought most attentively for facts. It is really true, that much which has been confidently written, and still more confidently spoken, respecting the contagious nature of typhus fever, has all the fluency and anger, and all the shallowness of a school-boy's theme. But this I will venture to assert, in the face of all authority, that no man of a perfectly unprejudiced and pure mind could fully investigate the rise and fall of typhus fever in this country without entertaining the strongest doubts as to its contagious nature, while a similar inquiry would leave no doubt on his mind with reference to the communnicability of small pox, measles, scarlet fever, and hooping cough.

**ON VENOUS CONGESTION.**

BY THOMAS SANDWICH.

Diseases of the mucous, serous, and cutaneous surfaces, constitute the greater part of the disorders of the human body. Their characters are generally simple, and the diagnosis and treatment consequently well understood. The most obscure diseases are those which are situated in the substance of the brain, the lungs, and the liver. I exclude from this enumeration the alterations in the valvar textures of the heart and great vessels, which, being mechanical, are in general easy of detection. The cause of this obscurity depends upon the peculiarity of the blood-vessels of each organ, and their vascular connection. The brain, in addition to many remarkable pleusions of veins without valves, is furnished with the longitudinal and lateral sinuses, which appear to be reservoirs to secure the organ from pressure, and accommodate it to variations in the state of the circulation, to which it is hourly accustomed. Perhaps the cavities of the heart perform a similar office for the lungs; at all events, their connexion constitutes a striking peculiarity; and the venous structure of the liver is peculiarly adapted to the function of the blood that is distributed to the viscera of the abdomen, performing too a secretory function, and being destitute of valves, modifies and obscures its diseases.

In these remarkable deviations from health, which originate in the operation of some unknown poison upon the blood, and which are called fevers, the effect of these peculiarities is very apparent. The balance of the circulation is destroyed for a time, and if the contagion has been powerful, or the constitutional peculiarities favorable, a more permanent accumulation of blood in the venous system takes place, which, if not speedily fatal, is succeeded by imperfect attempts at reaction; constituting a class of fevers, first distinctly unfolded by Dr Armstrong, and by him called congestive fevers. The features of these anomalous forms of fever are clearly defined; but it is not my intention to tread on ground preoccupied by so masterly a mind. I shall endeavour to point out some of those congestions of the venous system, which have fallen under my own observation, unconnected with idiopathic fever.

A striking peculiarity in these diseases, whether they exist in general plecthrea, or local accumulations, is that great debility which attends them. They are all, more or less, characterized by relaxation of the cutaneous and mucous surfaces. Hence we find the skin covered with a clammy sweat; the urine pale and abundant; vomiting sometimes, and commonly a watery diarrhoea. These appearances of debility are often fallacious, and in a practical point of view are liable to mislead.

1. When we consider that the veins are passive organs, and that the motion of blood which they contain depends on the vital force, or other words, the power of arteries, congestion of the brain is likely to happen. When the arterial system is either naturally feeble, or in a state of atony from previous excitement, this condition of the organ does occur; assuming the characters of apoplexy, mania, delirium tremens, epilepsy, and hysteric, according to the predisposition of the individual. Keeping in view the phenomena of these diseases when they depend on arterial excitation, the difference is readily perceived.

The arterial system of drunkards, probably when the stomach is impaire, is always in an atonic condition. Inflammation in such subjects never produces a contracted vitory pulse, as in sounder constitutions; and from this condition of the arteries, as one would expect, they are subject to venous congestions. One of the most striking is delirium tremens. Dr Armstrong thus describes it: "This disease most frequently occurs in habitual drunkards, and especially when, after repeated fits of intoxication, they suddenly pass from the state of inebrius to a state of consciousness for a time. The first feelings of indisposition are, lasitude; indistinct chills; loathing of food; uneasiness in the head; disturbed short slumber; anxious countenance; oppression at the pit of the stomach; and these are followed by retching or vomiting; white moist tongue; wildness and quickness of the look; weak rapid pulse; general irritability; watchfulness; tremors of the hands and dampness of the skin increased by the slightest exercise. Confusion of mind, or forgetfulness; supercences, which pass on to a state closely resembling mania." It is unnecessary to produce examples of an affection so common. The specific power of opium in this disease is a cogent argument in favor of the opinion that it depends on venous congestion.

Sycope is the most complete form of venous congestion, and fainting from loss of blood is often attended with convulsions. It is not improbable, therefore, that epilepsy, sometimes at least, depends on congestion of the brain. The known efficacy of tonics in this disease is a further reason in favor of the opinion, if there is any truth in the axiom, that "contraria contraria mediantur," and experiment is a surer guide to truth than opinion. Morbid anatomy also is in its favor. According to Morgagni, in some cases of epilepsy, "the most penetrating inquisition cannot detect any lesion of the structure of the brain." And when we consider the phenomena of the disease, the proof will be complete. A case which occurred to me in a hernal patient is thus describ:

> There was evident sensorial disturbance. Her eyes glistened, she was quick in her answers, and her conversation was incoherent and abrupt. This was a favourable opportunity for the recognition of this, but the attempt was ineffectual. During the operation, the convulsion fell, the lips became livid and convulsed, her eyes were inverted, foam issued from her mouth, and her whole frame was shaken by convulsions.

This alarming state of things continued half an hour, when her senses returned. I have also witnessed a case which depended on the irritation of a worm in the stomach.

It is notorious that irritable and feeble subjects are those most subject to hysteric. The disease is also, according to the experience of Sydenham and subsequent observers, generally curable by tonics and stimulants. It must, therefore, in many instances be ascribed to venous congestion of the brain. That it frequently depends on arterial excitement, and is curable by blood-letting, is also true. Putting, however, this species out of view, many of the symptoms can be explained on no other supposition than the one assigned, now that neurological hypotheses are exploded. The most striking of these is claus, a circumscribed sense of pain and pressure on the top of the head, obviously dependent on an overcharged state of the longitudinal sinuses, and instantaneous removed by a cordial.

To this remark in the circulation is to be ascribed the oppression about the precordia, and also the inmoderate flux of tears, and of pale urine, which are marked symptoms, and may be regarded as indirect efforts of nature to relieve the oppression. In delicate females we occasionally see more serious diseases warded off by a copious flow of tears. When the Roman poet describes his heroine,

> "Sanguineam volvens aciem, malanique trementes interfusa genas, et pulida morte futuri,"

we acknowledge the hand of a master; but when shortly afterwards she is

> "Paulum laerga et mente mora,"

the poet has drawn from his own imagination, and not from nature.

Whether the doctrine of venous congestion of the brain will explain the phenomena of the other diseases of the nervous system, as chorea, tetanus, and hydrophobia, other observers must determine. My experience does not enable me to decide the question. It is worthy of remark, however, that the resemblance of hydrophobia to hysteric has been pointed out by Dr Powel. 2. From the head to the chest the transition is natural and easy, and here the most striking example of venous congestion is the disease called angina pectoris. Its characters are strongly marked, so as to form a standard of comparison, and the cause proxima capable of demonstration. (To be continued.)

**IRRITABILITY AND SENSIBILITY.**—NO. III.

**DIFERENCE BETWEEN ANIMALS AND VEGETABLES.**

Almost all knowledge is got from the observation of nature, or of the ideas existing in the mind. True it is that many things are known which have never been expressed; and to abstract, enlarge, and illustrate ideas

* Armstrong on Typhus, &c. p. 270.
† Morgagni Epistola de Epilopi.

**OBS. IN MED. AND SURG.**

† Virgilii Eneid. lib. 14.
that are actually in the mind, is one of the most useful as well as the most noble employments of human intelligence. All men have known that matter has a tendency to fall to the earth; but it was reserved for Newton to declare the principles of gravity. All men have distinguished the tree from the soil in which it springs, and the lion from the flinty walk of his native habitation; but it was reserved for Linnaeus to declare the principles that are constantly exerted in the growth of all things, the life of organized beings, and the intellect of animal existence.

We may reason for years on the properties of natural productions, but we shall be led on from one error to another till we go abroad like them into the fields,—observe with accuracy the minerals that enrich, the vegetables that adorn, and the animals that curdure them; and investigate the laws by which the first grow, the second grow and live, and the third grow, live and think. It is by such investigation we notice between animals and vegetables analogies as remarkable as they are beautiful: and differences that are far more hidden from the view. It was long an opinion of philosophers, and one which is now commonly received, that animals have the peculiarity of locomotion only. But this is in reality only one of the modes in which the true difference is displayed. Volution is first exercised by the mind—the nerves convey the will of the mind to the irritability of the muscles—they contract, and thus locomotion is induced. The want of locomotion, then, is a want of the powers which produce it. It is a consequence of the real difference. Their nature will not admit of their moving from one place to another, and therefore the Author of Nature has invested them with powers to insensibly nourish from the soil, without rambling like animals over the surface of the globe, dying through the air, or delving in the deep.

Others have believed that plants approach still nearer the nature of man; and if we believe them we must think that all vegetables have an acute sensibility; a consciousness of enjoyment and suffering, and that they are affected like us by the pleasures and pains of life; that the gardener performs an act of cruelty when he lops the branches with his pruning-knife, and the sentimentalist gives pain to the beechn when he carves upon it the initials of his mistress.

Others, giving still wilder loose to fancy, and yielding more readily to the deceits of their own sophistry, have made the analogy of their proprieties, and the manner in which their functions are performed, so perfect, that we almost expect to see "trees like men walking," and exhibiting evidences of intelligence and thought.

The distinction between animal and organic life, which is so beautifully displayed by Bichat, is not doubted the most true that has ever been advanced. It will explain many things which have excited surprise and perplexity. It has been wondered how there happens to be so much analogy between the lowest animals, and some of the more perfect vegetables; and it has been thought that there are plants better entitled to a rank in the animal kingdom, than the limpet or

zoophiles. But there are infinite degrees of mental powers and feeling, among different species of animals, and the vigor of mind and body preserve no regular proportion. A plant;—then, may be more vigorous, more irritable, more active than an animal, and yet be destitute of a brain and nerves, and therefore destitute of all claim to animal nature.

It has been asked, With this criterion, how are we to discern the place of the coral, the sponge, &c. in which we have no evidence of mental powers? There are various grades of mind not only among different species of animals, but among individuals of the same species. Thus Homer discovered more mind than Simonides; and Virgil than Tibullus. In modern times, Milton had more than Pope, or the late Lord Byron. Barlow, too, in our own country, evinced greater mental powers than Paine; and what a vast range between Paine and Porter! The European and the American has more than the Asiatic; and the Asiatic than the African. The ape has more than the dog; the cat has less; and in the fish the evidence of intelligence is still more obscure. Thus we can trace the degrees of mind from the most exalted that ever tenanted a mortal frame—till they vanish like a fluxion. Below this point there are substances which may possess minute degrees of mental power, and are thus entitled to the rank of animals, though our faculties are not sufficiently acute to discern evidences of them. With these substances we have nothing to do. As there are particular characters too minute to be discovered by the eye, so there are characteristics so remote as to elude the mental vision; and all we know of either is that we are ignorant of them.

REPORTS.

The following case shows the necessity of sometimes opening the cavity of the knee-joint. Mr Abernethy's rules for deciding upon the expediency of this operation, also for performing it, are concise and sufficiently minute for every purpose.—See his Surgical Observations, page 134.—Ed.

CASE OF A LOOSE CARTILAGE IN THE KNEE-JOINT.

Communicated for the Medical Intelligencer.

By J. LARKEY, M. D. President of the Ontario Medical Society (N. Y.).

On the 7th of Oct. 1825, I was called to visit J. B., aged 34, a man of regular habits, but not possessing an athletic frame, or robust constitution. He had been for several months afflicted with a moveable body in his knee-joint, which passed without much obstruction from side to side of the joint. It would sometimes lie hidden, and could not be found without a long search. There was considerable tumefaction, but little discoloration in the knee. It gave great pain at times, and although the patient had not been thrown down, the disorder was rapidly growing formidable, and threatened him either with a stiff joint, or a total loss of the limb.

The floating body resembled the patella in shape, but was smaller in size, and rather more semicircular. It would slip from the fingers, and seemed to hide itself in a mysterious manner. Although it was from two to three inches in diameter, it frequently could not be found until the patient had been directed to walk about.

This belief led to a new case, it was not thought prudent to operate. I fixed the floating body below the patella, and secured it there by encircling the knee with a strong roller of cotton cloth spread with adhesive plaster. Over the whole I put a six-tailed bandage, made of soft leather. This, although less complex in its construction, I believe to answer every purpose of Mr Hey's "knee-piece."

This dressing was suffered to remain for eight days. On removing it I found the tumor sensibly diminished in size and altered in shape. It was of an irregular oblong figure, with indentations on each side. I now had hope of success from pressure alone. The dressings were removed, and the patient directed to abstain from violent exercise.

On the 27th of Oct. I removed the dressings, and found the tumor undiminished in size, while evident symptoms of ossification appeared upon its surface. I again renewed the dressing, and shifted the station of the tumor. In the mean time the pain in the joint increased, the limb grew weaker, the floating body grew harder, and every symptom indicated that all attempts to disperse it by pressure would be unavailing.

On the 3d of Nov. I removed the tumor from the knee. Having pushed it up so that it rested upon the external condyle of the femur, I made an incision directly over the tumor. I do not recommend this as the best method in all cases—but in this case I am confident it was.

The tumor was extracted without difficulty. The skin was brought together and secured by one stitch in the centre of the incision, and strips of adhesive plaster. Nothing material occurred after this; the wound healed kindly, and the patient was dismissed cured. The tumor shewed part of its surface completely ossified, and as entirely smooth as the head of the femur.

I kept the patient confined to his couch about twelve days. In less than thirty every symptom of disease had vanished.

DISLOCATION OF THE THIGH INTO THE FORAMEN OVALE.

An accident of this nature was brought to Guy's Hospital on Saturday evening, Sept. 10th. The patient, a thin young man, had fallen from a scaffold, the height of about thirty feet, upon some posts or pieces of timber, and by this means dislocated his left hip.

The diagnostic symptoms were so well marked, that it was impossible to mistake the nature of the accident. The legs were widely separated, and with great difficulty and pain were made to approximate; the limb was then seen to be considerably longer than the opposite, the foot turned outwards, and the patient rested on the ball of the great toe. The body was bent forwards, and when the patient was desired to stand upright, the thigh was then bent upon the body; the flattening of the hip was distinctly seen, and the head of the bone could be felt at the upper part of the thigh.

The mode of reduction was as follows.—The patient was placed upon his back on a table,
with his shoulders elevated, a broad belt was passed around the pelvis, and fastened to an iron on the right of the patient. A jack towel was carried between the upper part of the thigh and the pubes, and to this the book of the pulse was attached. Extension was then gradually made obliquely across the midriff (Mr. Key) taking hold of the limb, which was extended and nearly in a straight line with the body, gen-
tly carried it inwards, and at the same time slight-
ly depressed the thigh, in order to prevent the head of the bone (as he said) from passing into the ischiatic notch. The reduction was speedily effected, and the bone was distinctly heard to pass into its socket.

WOUNDS PENETRATING THE CHEST.

A carpenter, aged 26, went to sleep in his waistcoat, in the pocket of which was a pointed file. He fell out of bed on the point of the file, which entered between the ninth and tenth ribs, near their angle. Copious hemorrhage followed for two hours. Respiration was much disturbed. The wound was kept open. For the first month a bloody colored fluid was discharged, and the relief was proportioned to the discharge. He died in about five months. In the left side of the breast were three and an half pints of bloody colored fluid.—Rev. Med.

The appearances upon examination after death, of William Houghton, a watchman, who was lately beaten with an axe, were: Large bruises were found under the upper part of the right side of the back; in that side of the body was a gallon of bloody fluid, with large clots of blood upon the lungs, midriff and lining of the ribs. The five lowest ribs on the right side were broken; pieces of the ninth and tenth ribs had been pressed into the lungs, thus wounding the lining of the ribs and lungs; a piece of rib had wounded the liver. A large portion of the lining of the lower part of the belly, on the right side, was bloodstained. He died eight days after receiving these injuries.

VARIEGATIONS.

Thymus Oil.—An expiressed oil has been sent to me from the Brazils, under the name of Thymus oil. It is used as an emetic, and acts powerfully in the small dose of one or two drops. It appears to be procured from the seeds of a species of Jatropha, of which there are several indigenous to South America, of which likely J. multifida, the fruit of which has been long known under the appellation of the French Phys-

MIDWIFERY.

The Conception of the Author:—From what has been already said, it is evident that the practice of midwifery is very ancient, and that the history of the art is a part of the history of medicine. The ancients were more acquainted with the principles of medicine than we are, and their knowledge was more accurate. They were more skilful in the art of surgery than we are, and their operations were more successful. They were more attentive to the welfare of the patient than we are, and their attention was more constant. They were more skilful in the art of obstetrics than we are, and their operations were more successful. They were more attentive to the welfare of the patient than we are, and their attention was more constant. They were more skilful in the art of surgery than we are, and their operations were more successful. They were more attentive to the welfare of the patient than we are, and their attention was more constant.
OBSERVATIONS.

VENOUS CONGESTION.

(Concluded from page 134.)

One would naturally expect, that when the arterial system is weakened by profuse and protracted hemorrhages, congestion of the right chamber of the heart would occur; that we should have, in short, a disease analogous to anemia pectoris.

3. For anatomical reasons we have already stated, the liver is more subject to venous congestion, than any other organ; and congestion of the liver, as will be seen, is the root of many other serious disorders in the remoter part of the system; a fact which has indeed been recognized by many observers, who, however, contented themselves with the simple statement of the observation, without pointing out the way in which the effect was produced. Many of the diseases which are merged in the unmeaning appellation of biliary fevers, dyspepsia, &c. are at bottom examples of venous congestion of the liver; and still more which are regarded as primary affections, and treated as such, are in reality diseases of the liver.

In the simplest form, venous congestion of the liver denoted by paleness of the face, livor around the eyes, indigestion, dejection of spirits, and eczema without bile. The function of the liver is irregular, and constipation alternates with diarrhea. If the affection is not removed by the efforts of art or nature, the general disorder increases, and the oppression is occasionally removed by the supernumeration of the disease called melena; a discharge of venous blood per anum of the color and consistence of tar. When this salutary effect does not remove the disorder, or suggest the proper treatment, new diseases spring up in various parts of the body.

Occasionally venous congestion of the liver is quickly succeeded by inflammation of the organ. The most striking effects of this are witnessed in the disease called cholera morbus. In the cases which have occurred to me, the disease put on two characters. In one form the skin was cold, pale and livid, the pulse feeble, and the discharge of bile by vomiting and stool immense. In others, instead of the latter system, all secretion from the organ was suspended, and in addition to the relaxation of the mucous and cutaneous surfaces, there was vomiting and purging of fluid matter. In all cases the most dreadful cramps were present.

Congestion of the liver, by impeding in its course the volume of blood that is distributed to the abdominal viscera, is also, as we have remarked already, productive of diseases in remote parts of the system. Pulmonary diseases are often seen in connection with congestion of the liver: and the commonest form it assumes is bronchitis chronic, a disease admirably described by Dr. Armstrong.* This communication has also been pointed out by Drs. Philip and Hastings.

* Armstrong on Consumption, p. 178.

As might be expected, pulmonary consumption is no inefrangible consequence. In his lectures, Mr. Abernethy relates a striking example, which occurred in his coachman's wife, who was apparently in the last stage of phthisis, and who recovered by the use of medicines which produced tar-like evacuations from the bowels. The case of Mr. C. is one in point. After a tremendous inflammation of the lungs and pericardium, his recovery was retarded by congestion of the liver. The disease put on the aspect of typhus, and his shrinking manifested a cessation of bile. Eventually a discharge of tar-like offensive matter came on, the function by the liver returned, and his recovery was then rapid and complete.

All observers have pointed out the connexion of gout with a morbid condition of the liver, of which indeed it may be regarded as the natural cure. These vicarious diseases vary with the predisposition of the individual; accordingly we sometimes see the head, the organ that is soonest called into sympathetic action; and the consequences are hypochondriasis, or apoplexy. Of the former disease, I have witnessed several examples, where the mental affection was strongly marked. The abdominal extractions being black, or dark green, denoted the condition of the liver; and the affection of the head, in addition to the mental disturbance, was denoted by headache, heat of the head, and flushing of the face. There was, however, no distinctly formed pyrexia. In one example a discharge of black matter from the bowels was preceded by a rigor which resembled on ague. Cases of melena combined with apoplexy, are not uncommon. In two cases which fell under my observation, in addition to constipation, the face was flushed, the head burning hot, and the blood and pulse indicated fever.

4. As the treatment of many of the diseases we have enumerated has been long settled on the sure basis of experience, our remarks on this part of the subject will be very general. Indeed, in the present state of medical practice, there is more room for showing the rationale of the treatment than we have hitherto been led to believe. The addition of any new one is, it is, however, an indirect proof of the soundness of pathological speculations when they square with the established methods of cure. The fatal examples of Cullen and Brown should deter us from deviations in practice on theoretical grounds.

We have remarked that the remora occasioned by venous congestion of the larger organs, as the brain and liver, gives rise to an increased action of the arteries; and hence it is, that this condition of the organ is in no time complicated with inflammation. Indeed, a state of venous congestion precedes and accompanies all pyramidal diseases, and is characterized by coldness, paleness, and shiveringers. It is called by pathologists the cold stage, to distinguish it from the reaction which ensues. It is worthy of remark, that sometimes, from constitutional debility, the stage of reaction is never established; and the patient dies with all the symptoms of venous congestion. In typhus and scarlatina this is not uncommon.—In hot climates, it is in this primary stage, and this only, that remedies are availalig in fevers and inflammations. During this short prelude to the storm, copious blood-letting, the warm bath, &c. moderate the reaction, the violent efforts of the heart and arteries to restore the equilibrium of the system; otherwise the squall, as Dr. Rush emphatically calls it, lays the system prostrate, and disorganizes some of the vital organs. On this principle, then, the necessity of blood-letting in venous congestion of the graver kinds is obvious. At the same time, such is the state of what we will call debility, for want of a better term, that unless cordials are previously administered, and the patient put into a warm bath, a sufficiency of blood cannot be abstracted. In this climate, in such diseases, a succession of smaller bleedings is safer than one full evacuation by the lancet. In all the cases which have occurred to me, every succeeding venesee has been borne better, and has been larger than the one that preceded it; accurately noting in the phrenology of pathologists, the decrease of debility, but in correcter language the diminished oppression of the venous system.

Although in the minor forms of venous congestion, cordials are sufficient for their removal, in the graver forms they are quite inadequate. The lever is not long enough to lift the load, and it cannot be lengthened, insomuch as stimulants excite only in certain quantities; beyond this limit they act as debilitants. In the illustration of the lever and the load to be removed, if we cannot lengthen the one, we must lighten the other; so in these diseases our only resource is, to relieve the oppression of the veins by a careful abstraction of a portion of their contents.

We have seen, that in cases of venous congestion, the extreme vessels, the exhalants as they are called, are in an atomic state, and hence it is that the skin is supple and bedewed with a chummy sweat, the stomach nauseated with volatized secretions; that there is often watery diarrhoea, and always an excessive flow of pale urine. Even the connection of the liver is changed, and sometimes the effect upon the salivary glands produces a salivation. The indications arising from these symptoms are obvious: the warm bath; friction of the surface; purgatives; mercury occasionally, and medicines which tranquilize the stomach, complete the catalogue of remedies for venous congestion.

ON THE USE OF OPium IN CERTAIN INFLAMMATORY DISORDERS.

By JOHN ARMSTRONG, M. D.

Within the last four years, I have prescribed large doses of opium, concordingly with blood-letting, in at least one hundred cases of acute and sub-acute abdominal inflammation, proceeding from common causes; and as its efficacy has considerably exceeded that of any other remedy tried under similar circumstances, I shall endeavour to point out in this paper, first, those circumstances, and secondly, the most efficacious doses.
BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

It were superfluous to observe, that abdominal inflammations vary in their seat and degree. In conjunction with blood-letting, full doses of opium have been most useful in acute inflammations of the peritoneal coat of the bowels or of the stomach, of the peritonum more strictly so called, or of the uterus, and next, in acute inflammation of the kidneys and liver.

In all these acute inflammations, once completely developed, there are two stages, namely, one of excitement, and another of collapse. In the former stage, the heat continues higher than natural, and the pulse more resisting, as well as quicker, and though the strength be oppressed, it is not really subdued; whereas, in the stage of collapse, the heat falls below the natural standard, first on the extremities and then on the trunk, while the pulse becomes less resisting than natural, and usually more frequent than in the stage of excitement—the strength being then really subdued, as evidently appears from the feebleness of each inspiration and expiration. It is in the first only of these stages that medical agents are, generally speaking; at all efficacious. In acute inflammation, the usual duration of this stage is from three to seven or eight days, sometimes shorter, and occasionally a little longer, especially when seated in the liver or kidneys; but in the other, it will be less if it be naturally of the sub-acute form, or if it be rendered so by artificial means, it may last many days, for example, from fourteen to twenty. The sub-acute form of inflammation is distinguished from the acute, by the pain and fever being less urgent in the first, which thus differing in degree, has a more protracted course, and consequently allows more time for the favourable operation of the remedies applied. On this account there is less immediate occasion for the employment of opium in the sub-acute form, though it will be found highly useful in lessening its duration.

In acute inflammation of the peritoneal coat of the stomach or bowels, and in what are termed acute peritonitis and hysteritis, I always make a point of seeing the patient bled in the first stage, to complete relaxation, to approaching syncope, whatever may be the quantity of blood necessary to produce that effect; for it is to the effect, and not to the quantity, which we must look for relief in such formidable cases. As soon as ever the patient recovers from the faintness, three grains at least of good opium, in the form of a soft pill, are given and quietness strictly enjoined, that, if possible, sleep may be obtained. In some instances I have ordered a less quantity of the opium in a solid form, but have added sufficient of the tincture to make the dose equal. This method is preferable in highly irritable habits, because the sedative influence of the opium is thus more speedily procured. The effects of opium thus administered, are to prevent a subsequent increase in the force or frequency of the heart’s action, and a return of the abdominal pain, while it induces a tendency to quiet sleep, and a cautious perspiration on the delayed surface. In many instances, this simple procedure will remove the inflammation at once, nothing being afterwards necessary, when the patient awakes, but spare diet, absolute rest and quietness, with an occasional mild laxative. But on all occasions, if possible, I visit the patient about three or four hours after the administration of the opium, and if there be pain on pressure in any part of the abdomen, with a hot skin, and quick jerky pulse, I order the patient, in my presence, to be promptly bled again in the same decisive manner as before. Some physicians commit a great, a fatal mistake in the treatment of acute inflammations, by dictating one formula, that a certain, a determinate quantity of blood be not entirely removed; and then they walk about their business, as if all were done that ought to have been done. What an absurdity, what a strange violation of duty, does this conduct involve! In the first place, a great deal of time is commonly lost thus, which is so precious in all acute inflammations; in the second, the determinate quantity of blood, set automatically down, may have no effect in removing the inflammation; and I repeat, it is solely upon the effect produced that the benefit of blood-letting depends, and therefore the effect should always be witnessed by the physician. It is the only safe guide. After this second abstraction of blood, carried again to complete relaxation, I generally prescribe about two grains of opium with three or four grains of calomel, exhibited in the form of pills, as the faintness disappears. The patient is again left in perfect quietness, and refreshing sleep, with free perspiration, most frequently succeeds. A third venesection is rarely requisite, but if, after the expiration of five or six hours from the second, pain and fever still exist, the operation should again be performed as before, and one grain of opium with two or three grains of calomel given almost immediately afterwards; while half a grain of the former, with two grains of the latter, may be repeated every four hours till sleep and general perspiration be induced. It is repeatedly observed in my works, and the observation was made long before their appearance, that the specific effects of mercury are easily procured when large quantities of blood are abstracted under its administration. For this reason, the calomel is given with equal proportion, whenever copious and repeated blood-letting becomes necessary.

So great indeed is my confidence in full doses of opium in peritoneal enteritis, that if compelled to say, supposing myself the subject of the disorder, whether I would exclusively rely upon them solely, or upon blood-letting solely, I should certainly fix upon the former; at the same time I should like to have the simultaneous influence of both remedies, being convinced, that they are far more serviceable combined, than separately employed.

Though in the country my success was considerable in what is vaguely called pyrexial inter- vary, yet under the same treatment in London, namely, bleeding and purging, I am fully persuaded that a great many patients would have been lost. Women are much more irritable in London than in the country, probably on account of their more sedentary and artificial habits; and by consequence they are much more liable to that reaction of the heart and general irritability, which causes copious bleeding in them, and which appear to renew the inflammation when allowed to advance, but which may almost invariably be controlled, by full doses of opium given at the precise juncture before mentioned.

As opium has a specific effect on the vessels in the head, great care is necessary in its exhi-bition, when the brain is affected. One lady whom I attended, the wife of a medical practit-ioner, laboured under what is denominated purperal fever, a few days after delivery. In her the uterus, peritonum, liver, and brain were all at the same time inflamed. She had been preceded by an inflamed eye, when I saw her, without any decided relief. By my orders, she was bled a second time to complete reinaxation. Before this blood-letting, her tongue was as dry as a stick in the centre, but it became moist under the operation; and as all signs of inflammation were removed from the brain, I therefore prescribed a full opiate immediately afterwards, and with the best effect.

(To be continued.)

IRRITABILITY AND SENSIBILITY.—No. IV.

IRRITABILITY.

If we find that irritability is necessary to the existence of the phenomena of vegetable life, and that all the motions of plants which have been thought to indicate a sense of feeling, can be rationally explained on other principles, it would be violating one of the most important laws of reasoning to invest them with this superstitious property

It must be remembered. If any stimulus is necessary to the proper growth and functions of vegetables, they must possess a principle or property on which this stimulus acts, and this property is irritability. The substance from which plants derive their nourishment is indeed chiefly absorbed from the earth, by the tendrils of the roots. But it is not sufficient that blood is received into the system; before it can supply the deficiency produced by the cutaneous and sequestrations, it must undergo the processes of digestion, circulation and respiration; and of nutrition. These processes cannot be carried on without the stimulus of light, heat, and moisture.

Light is necessary—because if a plant be caused to vegetate in darkness, it increases only in length and pliability; its color is pale; it becomes weak, and breaks on the slightest touch, or falls beneath the weight of its long and branchy stems. If placed in the light before its strength and substance are exhausted, its rapid and unnatural growth is retarded; the processes of assimilation and formation are restored, and the whole plant is reinvigorated.

It should be noted, or referred to a cause the existence of which is not known. The ancients disregarded this law, and we see the effects in all their philosophy. They had an unaccountable desire to search after hidden causes and the essential nature of causes; whilst the philosophers of our time pass not the limits of demonstrative knowledge. Whilst, for example, we have a simple theory of perception, the Stoics believed that light emanated from the eye to the object, and was reflected; the Pythagoreans supposed a visible principle to proceed from all their philosophy. They had an unaccountable desire to search after hidden causes and the essential nature of causes; whilst the philosophers of our time pass not the limits of demonstrative knowledge.

Whilst, for example, we have a simple theory of perception, the Stoics believed that light emanated from the eye to the object, and was reflected; the Pythagoreans supposed a visible principle to proceed from all their philosophy. They had an unaccountable desire to search after hidden causes and the essential nature of causes; whilst the philosophers of our time pass not the limits of demonstrative knowledge.

We should never multiply causes, or refer effects to a cause the existence of which is not known. The ancients disregarded this law, and we see the effects in all their philosophy. They had an unaccountable desire to search after hidden causes and the essential nature of causes; whilst the philosophers of our time pass not the limits of demonstrative knowledge. Whist
plant receives new strength, solidity and vigor. So, on the other hand, in those regions where vegetation passes through all its stages whilst the sun is above the horizon, plants are more consolidated and vigorous, than where alternations of darkness, permit them to shoot in more rank luxuriance.*

The stimulus of heat and moisture is also equally necessary. In the cold regions of the north, on the mountains of Labrador, and beyond the latitude of the Arctic, the size and rapidity of vegetation, as well as the stature and genius of man, are chilled into miniature emblems of the same species in more temperate climates. The deserts of Africa, too, are barren—not for want of heat, but moisture;—it is because they are watered by no rivers, and continually swept by a thirty-breeze. But in those delightful climates where the sky is serene, and the earth visited alternately by showers and sunshine, vegetable nature seems to smile at her lot, and boast of her fullest vigor and her greatest beauty;—like the mind—if only warmed by poetry, it produces no fruit, and is barren as the sands of Arabia; but refreshed by a few streams of philosophy, their influence will unite with the sunshine of poetry, and together fertilize the desert, and enrich it with the fruits of intellectual vigor.

It seems, then, that many functions of plants, as well as animals, depend on their irritability. The stimulus of light, heat and moisture, are all necessary to their health, growth and vigor.† Moisture feeds them; light and heat nourish them, and expand their foliage and their flowers.

As all vegetables are affected by these agents, we might perhaps expect that if they act on the irritability, which is the power of being excited to motion, this power would more frequently discover itself in the phenomena of motion. It undoubtedly would if they possessed also a power of sense; for there are few muscles in the human body which can be excited to move after sensibility is destroyed. The least degree of irritation is noticed by the sensibility, and through the medium of the mind and nerves motion is indirectly produced. Thus when the stimulus to some parts, and one hundred times to others, would have had no such effect without the aid of the nerves; for as we have seen before, the nervous power is the natural stimulus of the irritability, and an impression conveyed through this medium will produce effects which will not follow in parts where this medium is wanting. Without it, very few of the animal motions are induced; and if deprived of it, perceptible motion would occur in those animals only, as in those vegetables, which possess the highest degree of irritability. Hence we discern why visible motion is so rare an occurrence in the vegetable kingdom.

Vegetables, then, possess a property like the irritability of animals, which is affected by the same stimuli that are constantly influencing our bodies. We have already seen the effects of climate on vegetable nature,—its effects are seen on the body and the mind of man. The square-built Dutchmen, for example, whose soil is damp and whose climate is dull and heavy, is less vigorous than the Frenchman, whose volatile and healthy character is as remarkable as the clearness and beauty of his country, and the freshness of his native breezes.

It has been argued that if plants have such a principle, it is not amiable to animal irritability, because the latter is capable of being excited by immaterial as well as material agents,—by the will of the mind as well as the blasts of the air. This, however, does not indicate a different property, because no one can deny that if the inspiration of the Almighty were to give understanding to plants, their irritability would, though unchanged, obey the commands of this intelligence. The absence of mind no more proves that vegetable irritability is incapable of being influenced by immaterial agents, than the absence of the summer's heat proves that the hidden flower will not be courted to expand by the August sun, or the umber plains of Autumn recover their verdure with the returning warmth of spring. The fact is that this principle is the same in both, though in each it has various modifications. Generally the same causes operate in the same manner on both, and produce in every country traits of resemblance between the character of its animals and its plants. The same zephyr that conduces to one, awakes and invigorates the other; and the same thickened air that arises from the heaping ice of the northern ocean, and deadens by its moist and penetrating cold the cattle that are feeding in the forests, deprives those forests of their verdure. It extinguishes at one blaze the flame of animal and vegetable life.

PHYSICIANS AND EDITORS.

There is no profession more laborious, and in many instances none so responsible, irksome, and ill-requited, as that of a physician. The nearest approach to it is the condition of an editor, who wishes, by being useful, to obtain a reputable standing in society, and a competency of the good things of life. In some respects there is a complete similarity between them;—each must submit to a surveillance over all his thoughts, words, and actions, exercised by jealous neighbors, inquisitive, fault-finding matrons, buffoons, quacks, demagogic politicians, and disappointed apparitions to office, occupying equally important stations in the community, and equally worthy of regard. This, every one by a little searching, soon learns to bear with all meekness; but what is too much to be required of any man, is to relinquish—as the physician is obliged to do—at every call, the comforts of his own fire-side, and the society of his wife and children, for a long visit in a dark and dreary night—not always to the abode of sickness and distress, but often to that of pampered hypochondriacs, who after being relieved from imaginary danger, think no more of the physician till their fears again overtake them. So with the editor—the publication being received and read, those who are served forget the poor caterer to their intellectual appetite, and leave him to work and starve his way along as he can; and thus the editor and the physician, from the apparent extent and prosperity of their business, may be in a proportionate state of embarrassment and pecuniary suffering.

What, then, must be his condition who undertakes both professions? Physicians know that their responsibilities are awful! The dearest interests of whole families must often be submitted to their care;—they are expected to watch over them with the utmost solicitude;—to be prepared for every emergency and obedient to every summons; and be he that acquires himself of these obligations, and can boast of the integrity and skill of a honest man and a good practitioner, deserves his reward,—

The medical editor is, in some instances, worse situated than the practicing physician. Thousands are always ready to scrutinize their intentions, and pronounce judgment upon his doings. He has to cater for various and opposite appetites, and to pick his way through numerous and obscure doctrines. His demands, though small, are numerous, and a compliance with them is absolutely necessary to the advantageous prosecution of his plan. His patrons are scattered through every section of the country, and though a class of gentlemen who can pay the sum of their subscription without the least inconvenience, they dislike to be asked for money. We do not wish to den, but the subscribers to our paper have become numerous, and a settlement of arrears is absolutely necessary.

AN EEL EJECTED FROM THE STOMACH.

We have examined an eel which was recently thrown from the stomach of a large fish, in the act of violent vomition. The fish was ten inches long and three fourths round, and about the bigness of a common sized man’s thumb; its color, gills, and fins exactly resemble those of the fresh water, or what is called in the country, the mud-eel. The account which the man gives of it, is that about two years ago, when drinking from the aqueduct that conveys water from the Schuylkill river to Philadelphia, he felt something pass down his throat, which he supposed at the time to be a straw; since then he has frequently felt something moving rapidly in his stomach, and always been confident that it was an animal. These are the principal facts, and as respects the animal having been thrown from the man’s stomach, are abundantly substantiated, it lived half an hour after it was thrown off, and at first was very lively.

MEASLES.

The first symptoms that appear to usher in an attack of measles are watery eyes, a running nose, occasional sneezing, and some degree of cough. These precursory symptoms continue for three or four days before the eruption comes out. But I have seen measles occur without being preceded by any of the catarrhal symptoms; during the last summer, I saw several cases of this kind. There is one thing that you ought to be aware of, namely, patients are sometimes attacked by inflammation of the larynx, before the rash comes out, and they would be in danger of dying from suffocation, if you were to wait until the rash appeared. Sometimes, also, the brain becomes inflamed, before the appearance of the rash;—I remember in particular the case of a boy where this happened. You cannot be surprised at this, when you recollect that the excitement is fully developed for 2 or 3 days before the rash. The rash of measles generally appears first on the neck, chin, and face, and then gradually spreads to other parts of the body. It has been said that the rash of measles is darker than the efflorescence of scarlet fever, and it is so generally, but not universally. It is

* Light has a two-fold influence on vegetables. It acts as a stimulus, inducing the proper functions; and as a chemical agent, separating the water from the carbonic acid, and excitating the oxygen of the gazer, —thus forming carbon which unites with the prostrate elements of the water, and forms the basis of vegetable secretions,—Vide C. F. Brisseau Mirbel. Trans. L. M. and P. J.

† The effects of such causes on vegetable irritability is so great, that the same plant performs its functions differently in different climates, and under different circumstances. Thus the garlic loses its rankness in Greece. Plants of warm climates are killed in cold ones; and the same degree of cold affects the starchy branches of a tree more than the round ones.

‡ By several experiments," says Dr Hales, "plants were found to increase considerably in weight in dewy and moist nights." —Veg. St. Vol. I. L. 142.
true, generally, because the affection of the mucous membrane of the air passages is usually more fully developed in the measles.

Diagnosis.

How would you distinguish measles from scarlatina? The first thing to remember is the appearance of the catarrhal symptoms in measles, before the eruption. 2. The rash appears in smaller points than in scarlatina, being more like millet seeds, just raised above the level of the skin, and of a dusky hue. 3. The rash of measles differs also materially from the efflorescence of scarlet fever upon the face, it is diffused in broad flashes in the latter, whilst it is invariably in small distinct elevations in the former. 4. In measles, if you look under the throat attentively, you will find small raised spots upon the soft palate, but in scarlet fever there is a diffused efflorescence over the whole throat, in which such spots are not at all perceptible. 5. There is a peculiar smell in measles, which is not present in scarlet fever.

Pathology.

With respect to the pathology of measles, it is similar, generally, to that which I have described in scarlatina. The fever attending measles generally puts on the inflammatory character, and the inflammation is generally seated about the air passages, especially if the patient be kept hot. I saw several cases sometime ago, where the patients were nearly dying from being kept too hot; the windows were shut, the curtains drawn, and the door never allowed to remain long open. These cases were all evidently developed in the first instance whenever they became typhoid from want of fresh air. Then you will recollect, that what I have said about the ardent, or open form of fever, and the smothered or masked form, is applicable to the measles, as well as in scarlatina. The rash of measles usually goes away in three or four days, but it continues longer if the fever be protracted, and this is the case likewise with the efflorescence of scarlatina.

Treatment.

With respect to the medical treatment of measles, I have little to say. If you see a child running about the house who has a slight running at the nose, and a little cough, with scarcely any degree of fever, if you give him a laxative, avoid cold, and adopt a spare diet, he will generally do well without any other means. But if you find the signs of any internal inflammation you must be upon your guard, and treat it accordingly to those rules which I before so repeatedly prescribed, when I spoke of particular inflammations. When the skin is frequently hot and dry, and the pulse quick or resisting, blood must be drawn and the patient must be kept upon a strictly antiphlogistic diet. But if you see a patient labouring under the masked form of fever, keep him in bed, surround him with a fresh atmosphere, move his bowels mildly, and be cautious about bloodletting. In such cases those means which at the same time act gently on the bowels and skin are the most efficacious, in measles, as well as in scarlet fever, sometimes the raising of the intestines is inflamed. Do not suppose that this is produced by the tongue being red, that redness is often a part of the efflorescence in the one and the rash in the other. Remember what I before remarked,—do not trust too much to any single symptom, as to a combination of several symptoms, in forming an opinion of the seat and nature of the affection.

As a general rule, a neutral temperature is best in the measles, I mean one by which the surface of the body is neither chilled nor heated. But when the skin is universally moist, you should be mindful of currents of cool air, for these have a decided influence in inflammation; on the other hand, when the skin is uniformly hot and dry, a cool atmosphere is delightfully refreshing, and even beneficial by diminishing the excitement. Again and again in most examples of the latter, I have seen the most agreeable changes induced by lessening the temperature of the sick chamber, and by abstracting a little blood. During convalescence be very careful in measles, about preserving the natural warmth of the skin, chilliness of which often tends to pulmonary affections, acute or chronic.

VARIETIES.

Vaccination.—The question of contagion in the Plague and Yellow Fever is scarcely decided, when a still more important one occupies the attention of the learned. The numerous failures of Vaccination induce me to report on the Vaccine of Pustules, and to form a committee to inquire into and report on the facts. This report, which was read at the general extra-ordinary sitting of the Academy on the 20th of September, 1824, I have not yet heard of. I am not yet got rid of its antipathy for vaccination; the dense mass of the population rejecting inoculation as a criminal presumption in interfering with the order of Providence;—that, to compel vaccination, no child would in future be introduced into any school without producing a regular certificate of vaccination;—that in the greater part of France, vaccination had increased, the number vaccinated last year was 5824, and in Corsica, where there were only 142 vaccinated in 1823, the number last year was 5854. Dr Villereau stated, that since the introduction of vaccine into Alençon, now 20 years ago, not only none had had the small-pox, but the city had been entirely free from the measles and scarlet fever, although these two disorders had committed great ravages in the neighborhood. This," said Dr Villereau, "is the best answer that can be offered to the reports of Dr Robert Watt, of Glasgow, who has pronounced a contrary opinion.

Natural History.—Consists of an aggregate of informed opinion and testimony which has been derived, or deduced, from several of the natural bodies which surround us; although, at first, it was not and could not have been the intention to unite the various results into a science. The observations are not at first, chiefly regarded under the mode of living, the age, the station, or place of abode of animals and plants, but especially their usefulness, or obnoxiousness to man; even minerals, which, at that early stage of information, could scarce possess any value to the patient, who had been entirely free from the measles and scarlet fever, although these two disorders had committed great ravages in the neighborhood. This," said Dr Villereau, "is the best answer that can be offered to the reports of Dr Robert Watt, of Glasgow, who has pronounced a contrary opinion.

Medical School of Maine.

The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 20th day of February, 1826.

Anatomy and Surgery, by J. D. Wells, M. D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica, by P. Cleaveland, M. D.

The Anatomical Cabinet is very valuable, and extensive, containing all the preparations necessary for demonstrations, &c.

The Museum entirely embraces the most valuable modern works on Medicine, and its Colloquial Science; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and American.

The course of study, which becomes a member of this Institution, is required by the Statutes to present satisfactory evidence of possessing a good moral character.

Surgical operations and the necessary medical attendance shall be free of expense to any citizen of Maine, who shall offer satisfactory evidence of poverty, provided such person is brought into the vicinity of the College, so that the operation may generally be performed in the absence of Medical Faculties.

Boarding may be obtained from 1dol. 50 cts to 1 dol. 75 cts a week, or, including washing, room-rent, firewood, and lights, for 2 dol. 50 cts.

New York, Dec. 25, 1826.

Medical Books.

A CONCISET OF PHARMACOPEIAS OF THE LONDON, EDINBURGH AND DUBLIN COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS, being a Practical Compendium of Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, by AXEDY THOMSON, first American, from the fifth London edition, improved by the additions of the United States Pharmacopia, Majendie's Formulary and other modern and accurate Transformations.

An INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY, by THOMAS DIXON, from the last London Edition, with notes by Dr John W. FRANCIS, of New York.

A new Edition of THOMAS' PRACTICE, with an Appendix by Dr David Hosack, of New-York; and a large assortment of other new and valuable Medical Books, constantly for sale.

HARRISON GRAY, No. 72, Washington St.
OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE USE OF OPium IN CERTAIN INFLAMMATORY DISORDERS.

(Concluded from page 183.)

In several cases of acute inflammation of the pericardium, of the pleura, and of the substance of the lungs, I have tried the large doses of opium after copious venesection, with similar benefit as in the acute abdominal inflammation before mentioned; but it is a practice which I would not be understood to recommend in general. Subacute inflammation of the mucous membrane, especially of that portion which invests the small intestines, is exceedingly common as an original affection in this country, both among children and adults. It is generally denoted by an obscure pain in some part of the abdomen increased under pressure, accompanied by a quick soft pulse, a hollowness of the abdomen, and a slightly furred tongue remarkably red at the top, and a short way thence round the edges, while the stools, from an increased mixture of mucus, most frequently have an elegant sort of consistence, and are somewhat darker and more offensive than natural. In the London Fever Hospital I have had a great many opportunities of pointing out this particular form of inflammation to my pupils, and also of showing the great efficacy of small or moderate doses of calomel, conjoined with a few grains of rhubarb, and a little dose of castor oil. The French pathologists have overlooked the general connexion which a disordered state of the liver has with sub-acute inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestines. Wherever this connexion exists, small or moderate doses of calomel, united with mild laxatives, will be found highly useful, seemingly by gently dissolving the morbid accumulations in the bowels, and particularly by increasing a flow of bile, from which, probably, the blood finds a ready access through the liver, and thus influences the circulation of the spleen, the superior and inferior mesenteric veins, and their ramifications. In all cases, however, of this complicated nature, I have applied leeches to the abdomen, and repeated them as long as there was any pain on pressure; and experience has taught me that they may be employed preferably to general blood-letting in most sub-acute inflammations of the mucous membrane of the bowels. In such examples, the blankest and sparsest diet is necessary, for any deviation in that respect is apt to maintain the inflammation, in defiance of the best remedies. The more we attend to minutize in the general management, which involves diet, temperature, quietude, and other points, the more shall we be convinced of their vast importance in determining the results of our practice. In fevers which proceed from peculiar causes, such as malaria, and the specific contagions, subacute inflammation of the mucous membrane of the small intestines, particularly of the lower portion of the ileum, is by no means uncommon, but, as in the acute forms of such inflammation, it may be laid down as an axiom, that opium is prejudicial, while the tongue continues dry. Besides, in such cases, the brain and bronchial lining are often sub-acutely inflamed at the same time, a combination which contra-indicates the administration of this medicine.

If we wish to arrive at any thing like just principles to guide us in the application of remedies we must discard suppositions a priori of the subject, and especially note not only the circumstances under which any particular remedy is given, but all the effects which it produces: for the same remedy produces such different effects under different circumstances, that it might be regarded, practically at least, as a different agent, so powerful is the modifying influence of special conditions of the system.

HOOPING COUGH.

Hooping cough comes on in general like a common catarrh, except that there is seldom a running at the nose. After the lapse commonly of a few days, the cough comes on in fits, and a child, if standing at a distance from a table or chair, will run to them to catch hold to prepare himself for the struggle, as if he had a warning of the fit. There is then a sudden and strange sensation about the larynx; the face becomes turgid, the eyes swollen, and red, and the cough is made by several rapid expirations in succession, followed by a long and deep inspiration, accompanied by a peculiar noise called the 'hoop.' These fits of coughing, or hoop, terminate in two ways, either by mucous expectation or vomiting for both. One attack is succeeded by another, and terminates in the same way. This affection is rather alarming when it attacks very young and very delicate children, for such are very liable, likewise, to irritation of the mucous membrane of the intestines, and subsequently to convulsions from a sympathetic affection of the brain. In examining the bodies in fatal cases, I have always found traces of inflammation about the mucous membrane of the larynx, as an intelligent friend has stated in an excellent paper which he has published on the subject, but I have never found proofs of inflammation of the mucous lining of the small or large intestines of children, and often an overloaded condition of the pia mater, with some opacity of the arachnoid, and effusion between these membranes, or into the ventricles. The irritation appears to commence first about the larynx, and often spreads down the trachea and bronchia; it next attacks the mucous membrane of the bowels, and lastly the brain becomes affected; at least this is the order which I have most frequently observed. Hooping cough is hardly ever a serious disorder where fever and dyspnoea, or difficulty of breathing, are absent; but it is a common disorder, especially in infants, or very delicate children, where fever and dyspnoea are present. Hooping cough is far more fatal in London than in the country, if I might form an opinion in the subject from my own observation. This, I believe, much depends upon the greater general delicacy of the children, by which the mucous irritations are apt to be more urgent; but I cannot help suspecting, that it principally depends upon the more active treatment that is generally adopted in the British metropolis. A very common plan is to sicken children, two, three, or more times in the day by ipecac., or antimony; and I have in many cases distinctly traced the origin of the irritation of the mucous membrane of the bowels to the effect of one or other of these medicines, or to small doses of the prussic acid, and generally the affection of...
the brain has succeeded, apparently as a consequence.

I do not mention these facts as matters of personal censure; men do what they believe is the best; they act according to the rules of recognized authorities, and such errors of judgment ought to be tenderly regarded in an individual point of view. No one who has practised physic without committing many mistakes, and one professional brother should make the lawful allowance for another, who may be as superior in one department as he is inferior in some other to the practitioner who may chance to detect a mistake. My business as a teacher is to warn you against systematic errors, and therefore let me strongly warn you against the common one of giving daily nauseaing or emetic doses of antimony or pepecac, in hooping cough. Generally speaking, if you put the little patients on a bland diet, if in cold weather you place them in a regulated temperature of from 58 to 64 deg. if you give them a little mild aperient medicine if necessary, and prevent acidity by a little carbomiate of potash or soda, the complaint will leave them in a few weeks. It is often as important to know the extent of our ignorance as our information. Hooping cough has a sort of determinate duration. If mild weather, it lasts about six weeks or two months, but longer in cold weather, unless the children be kept in an artificial kind of warm climate. All attempts to shorten its duration by violent measures are not only fruitless, but commonly very pernicious. Where, however, fever and dyspepsia arise, you must apply the appropriate remedies for the removal of the cause; and when the complaint assumes a chronic character, a change into a fresh and bland air is often attended with the happiest effects. But where that cannot be accomplished, a mild and simple diet, a gentle aperient occasionally, a little carbonate of potash, with a few drops of the tincture of hyoscyamus, and the occasional employment of the tepid bath, often answer an excellent purpose. If you wish to shorten a chronic hooping cough, keep the functions of the skin right, and avoid irritating the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal.

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**BOSTON EYE INFIRMARY.**

A meeting of very respectable gentlemen has been recently held in this city, for the purpose of establishing permanently an Eye Infirmary, on the plan of that now in full and successful operation in New-York. The meeting was founded on a communication from two physicians who have recently devoted themselves to the complaints connected with the organs of vision, and as this communication displays the great usefulness, and in fact necessity, of such an institution, as well as the extent among us of an interesting class of diseases, we here give it to the medical public.

The object of the Institution, founded in this City on the 1st Oct. 1824, under the title of the Boston Eye Infirmary, to whose history and progress we have given an interesting account, is a treatment of the Diseases of the Eye among the Poor, a class of our citizens from their various habits, occupations, privations and exposures, peculiarly subject to Diseases of this important organ.

We were induced to engage in the undertaking from the conviction (the result of a very extensive observation of these Diseases during a period of six years) that there is, annually, a great amount of serious suffering among the poor, from this cause; suffering, for which no efficient provision has been made, and which, thus far, from ignorance of its existence, on the part of the public, has received that sympathy which its extent demands. There is a belief that the establishment of a Public Eye Infirmary, upon a proper foundation, was much needed, and would prove an invaluable blessing to the poor and an important acquisition to our City.

Persons unacquainted with this subject, can form no adequate idea of the wretchedness to which the Poor are reduced, when they become the subjects of Diseases of the Eye. To those in the enjoyment of influence or competency, they are sufficiently distressing. But when, to the obvious evils of these diseases, are added the miseries of want, they constitute affliction which calls loudly for the sympathy of every benevolent heart. The moment a person whose subsistence depends upon the daily labour of his hands, becomes afflicted with any of the acute Diseases of the Eye, his labours must be suspended, and his support cease, and if he is not soon relieved, so exquisitely delicate is the structure of the Organ, that a change of texture is easily induced, fatal to vision, and it necessarily follows that the sufferer, and those dependent upon his exertions, must have all the evils of poverty added to the misfortune of disease. All our public Asylums afford many unfortunate examples of this fact; examples of individuals, and, frequently, whole families dependent upon them, who might have subsisted independently and respectively upon the fruits of their industry, compelled, by the long continuance or the fatal consequences of these Diseases, from mismanagement or neglect, to throw themselves upon the public bounty for support. But it is not the acute Diseases of the Eye alone, which, unless properly and promptly treated, terminating in changes of the Organ, fatal to vision, are attended with these unhappy consequences. There are many, which not violent or immediately dangerous, are yet sufficiently annoying and distressing, to incapacitate those suffering under them, from the pursuit of their ordinary avocations, and which compel them, after much suffering, with almost equal certainty, to shelter themselves under the Charities of the Public. Most of these Diseases, if early attended to as they are here by the Eye Infirmary, admit of a very easy and rapid cure. It has been stated (says the Report of the New York Eye Infirmary,) by the Medical Attendant of the Almshouse at Bellevue, that a considerable number of paupers are annually received and supported there, who have been reduced to the necessity of subsisting on the Public bounty by loss of sight induced by Diseases which might have been cured by attention in the first instance. But, unfortunately, it is not necessary to go so far for examples in proof of our assertion. We have, ourselves, witnessed the same melancholy facts in our own Almshouse; and it will be found that every Charity of the kind, contains a number of persons who have been compelled to seek shelter under its roof, from the privations induced by unreceived Diseases of the Eye; and who, had such an institution existed as that for which we are now seeking the patronage of the benevolent, would have now been competent and happy in the pursuit of their various callings.

But the poorest classes of the community—those who suffer thus severely in silence—are not the only persons with whom Diseases of the Eyes are very frequent, and to whom such an Institution would be invaluable. Many of these Diseases, from constitutional and other causes, are of long continuance, and require, though not immediately dangerous to vision, frequent attendance and careful watching, to prevent them from terminating in changes of textures, which as certainly impair vision as the more obviously dangerous and rapid species of Disease. They are very common among an extensive class of our Citizens, our Mechanics, Tradesmen, Females of small incomes, and various individuals whose means enable them to live independently while in health, but who are unable to procure all the attention which these important Diseases demand without incurring medical expenses greater than they are able to bear—and from feelings of delicacy on their part, they are often suffered to proceed until very unfortunate effects are occasioned—until vision is much impaired, and sometimes wholly destroyed. It has been our unhappiness to witness many such instances at the Infirmary, and to hear them lament that such an institution had not existed earlier, where they might have felt at liberty to apply for relief.

(To be continued.)

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**MEDICAL RECORDER.**

About a year ago we spoke of this work as the most useful medical journal in the country. Every number which has been issued since has been replete with useful practical remarks and intelligence on medical subjects, to collect and arrange which must have required much judgment as well as industry. The 33d No. which is just from the press, contains so much more matter than is usually found in periodicals, and all so interesting and instructive, that we are almost persuaded to believe that a great book may be so constructed as really not to be a great evil.

As a mark of the spirit with which the work is conducted, as well as for the benefit of our readers in another way, we republish the following advertisement which accompanies the number of the Recorder for the present month.

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**MEDICAL PRIZE ESSAYS.**

The Proprietor of the Medical Recorder has concluded again to offer premiums for the Essays to be published in the volume for 1826.

The subjects of the Essays are—

1. On the History and Treatment of Rheumatism and Gout.
2. On the Suppression of Hemorrhage from wounds by medical and mechanical means.

It is expected, that the essay will embrace the relative importance of the various styes and figures, which are most proper for this object. Their pathology, as far as it can be ascertained, is to be considered, as also, the extent to which the obliteration of the larger arteries may be carried, and the safest means of effecting that end. In thus directing the attention of the candidates, much must still be left to their own judgment; as it may be possible that a good dissertation on any one branch of it may be so valuable as to gain the premium. The whole history, pathology, and treatment of hemmorhage
from wounds, is considered the subject of the competition, in order to give the most liberal and free range to inquiry.

The Essays will be submitted for examination to not less than three respectable Physicians; the successful Essays to be entitled to one hundred dollars each, or a silver cup of that value, to be manufactured by Messrs. Fletcher and Gardiner.

Should the second best Essay be deemed worthy of publication, an additional premium of fifty dollars will be paid in books. Each dissertation must be accompanied with a sealed letter enclosing the name of the author. The unsuccessful Essays will be returned to their authors on application.

Essays offered for the first premium, must be handed in by the first day of May; and the second by the first day of August, 1820. All communications must be addressed (post paid) to James Weasten, publisher of the Medical Recorder, No. 24, South Eighth Street, Philadelphia.

An Additional Arrangement.

The Proprietor of the Medical Recorder, believing the promotion of science will be benefited by giving a compensation for Essays on Medical subjects generally, without restriction to any particular subject, as it will enable every individual to exert his talents in a manner best suited to his own taste—this view, and to enlist the medical genius and learning of our country, he offers to pay in medical, or other books, to the amount of fifty dollars, for Essays on Medical subjects, that may be considered, by competent judges, to be papers of merit, and calculated to promote the science of Medicine by their publication.

Essays offered under this arrangement must be accompanied with a sealed letter enclosing the name of the author. The unsuccessful essays will be returned on application; but would it not be advisable for authors to say the conductors of the journal are at liberty to make use of them, if not considered entitled to the compensation offered? The essays will be submitted to the inspection of not less than two or three respectable physicians, who have no interest in the journal; therefore, everything will be conducted on the most liberal plan.

RUPTURE OF THE HEART.

A subject for anatomical purposes, was found to have a large rupture of the left side of the heart, like an office made by thrusting the finger through the walls of that organ. The membrane which encircles the heart contained a conglomeration of blood, which distended it, and diminished the capacity of the heart. As nearly as can be ascertained, the person died suddenly, falling down on the floor, without any previous symptoms of indisposition.

Such cases are more frequent than is generally supposed. Persons addicted to intemperance, which keeps up an increased action in the vascular system, as well as those who possess no command over the bad passions of their nature, often die instantaneously of ruptures of the heart, when an affection of the brain has been the reputed cause.

Ruptures of the heart, as far as our own observation is concerned, are confined to the ventricles, and never occur in the auricles. The left ventricle is unquestionably obliged to act with immensely more power than the right, in order to propel the blood through the aortic system; it has a peculiar physical organization for that purpose, and is liable to burst, although its varicities are apparently of the strongest muscular tissue, of any in the body.

The right side of the heart has neither the structure nor the power required to throw the blood into the pulmonary artery, bears no proportion to that required of the left.

IRRITABILITY AND SENSIBILITY.—NO. V.

2d. We shall next inquire whether it is necessary to suppose sensibility in plants, in order to explain the principles of their motion.

As to the power by which sap is carried from the roots and diffused through the branches and leaves, there are various opinions. Dr. Hales believes that it is by mere capillary attraction, assisted by the brisk undulations and vibrations caused by the sun’s warmth. This power, he thinks, will be seen in the evaporation at the surface; and when that evaporation is obstructed, as in the night, the sap returns through the same vessels that brought it from the root. Whatever may be its cause or the rapidity of its motions, it is true that capillary attraction is not the only power by which it is propelled, nor would this alone be sufficient to explain the phenomena of vegetable circulation. 1st. It is not the only power, because its action is mechanical, and would therefore never cease; but we see that vegetable, like human life, is transitory. The most sturdiest oak does not live forever; when it has opposed the storms of a few years, its irritability is exhausted; external agents cease to produce their wound effects; it droops like man, and dies. 2d. Nor would it alone be sufficient. If you make a horizontal incision in the stalk of the papaver somniferum, the asclepias syriaca, or the lactuca elongata, the sap escapes against the pressure of the air and the force of gravity; but capillary attraction can never draw a fluid beyond the upper surface of the tubes. The branch of the vine be cut off, sap is driven out by the vessels with such rapidity and force, as to press up a column of mercury 37 inches in length. This must be effected either by the natural and usual contractions which are constantly exercised in propelling the fluids, and by the unnatural contractions of the extremities of the vessels produced by the irritation of the cutting instrument or the air. In either case there are evidences of irritability, and for reasons that are sufficiently obvious, we can no more suppose that these vessels feel the presence of the sap and contract to get rid of it, than we are sensible of the stimulus of the blood on the heart, and that this organ contracts from a similar motive. No man will pretend that he can, by the strictest attention, perceive the pressure of the blood against the walls of the heart, or the skin of the arteries or veins, and there is no man who can, by an exercise of mind—by any perceptions, ideas, judgments, memory, or volition of his own, diminish the feverish frequency of the pulse, or abate the ardor of a severe palpitation. So when a limb is amputated, pain is in a great degree prevented by the interruption of its nerves by the surgeon; if this interruption were greater, there would be still less feeling; and if perfect, the sensibility would be totally destroyed. Yet however far this may be carried, the irritation is so great as sometimes to produce contractions of the extremities of the blood-vessels, strong enough to resist the powerful impulse of the heart. As, then, in man, the blood is carried through vessels that are irritable, but entirely destitute of feeling, so also in plants, a similar phenomenon must be explained on similar principles.

Imperceptible motions exist also in the leaves of plants, and from these we derive proofs of their irritability and their want of feeling. The upper surface of a leaf performs functions different from those of the lower; and these processes depend on the peculiar irritability of the parts in which they are performed; for as the irritability in animals is variously modified in different organs, so particular plants, and particular parts of the same plant, have stimuli that are peculiar and affect them more powerfully than any other; thus when the pollen falls on the pistil, it produces effects which would have resulted from the irritation of no other substance; it diffuses a glow of animation, and is the parent of an hundred shoots. The upper surface of a leaf of the morus or mulberry tree, immersed in water, soon died; the under surface of another leaf of the same tree, placed in contact with the water, lived six days—strikingly illustrating the truth of the proposition, that the two surfaces of a leaf possess different kinds of irritability. To believe that the leaf knows what kind of a stimulus is presented to it, and is influenced accordingly to receive or reject it, would be as absurd as to assert that we feel the stimulus which induces to action the absorbing and excretory organs of the skin or lungs.

REPORTS.

REMOVAL OF CICATRICES FROM THE NECK, CONSEQUENT ON BURNS.

BY J. H. JAMES.

The profession and the public are much indebted to Mr Earle for the practice he has recommended and introduced in deformities consequent on burns.* In one species, however, arising from this cause, it certainly would appear that great difficulty has arisen in the application of his principle, and we have very high authority for believing that relief is not commonly obtained.† I allude to those cases where the cicatrix existed between the lower jaw and sternum, an occurrence unfortunately frequent. Three of these have come under my care, and in the two last, every benefit was obtained from the operation that could be expected or desired. These cases I will relate, as they will serve to explain the plan I adopted.

Case I.—Elizabeth Bully, a girl between 8 and 9 years of age, was admitted a patient of the Devon and Exeter Hospital, on account of a cicatrix of this kind, the consequence of a burn, from which she had suffered about seven months before. It was large, broad, and dense, lying down the chin closely to the sternum, so that there was not an interval of more than an inch between them by measure; it was situated a little towards the left side, and the corner of the mouth was a good deal drawn down by it: it also projected from the ordinary surface of the neck, so as to efface the projection of the chin.

March 9, 1821.—I performed the operation in the following way: I made two incisions, one at either end of the cicatrix, extending to its termination at the upper part of the sternum where they met; then dissected up the flap, of which I removed no part, but having completely freed

* See two papers contained in the sixth and seventh volumes of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions.
† Sir Ashley Cooper’s Lectures, edited by Sir Tyrrell, vol. 1, p. 172.
it, I found I was able to dispose of it out of sight under the chin. The distance between the sternum and the chin was now increased to at least three inches by measure. I supported the cicatrix in its situation, first by broad strips of adhesive plaster, and secondly by a compress of lint secured by a broad fillet fastened at the top of the head, so as to make a good chin. I then tried to approximate the edges of the wound beneath by strips of plaster, but this could only be accomplished in a partial manner. I then put on the screw collar, the construction of which is described at the end of this paper. I soon found that this was of no service, for when the wound inflamed and became irritable, she continued, from its being rather too large, to slip the collar in it. I therefore contented myself with applying a collar of pasteboard with a poultice underneath, and laid her head nearly on the same horizontal line as her body, till a smaller screw collar could be made. In the mean time suppuration was freely established, and the irritation of the wound having been subdued, I was enabled after a few days to apply this.

In the course of the cure, this girl was attacked by measles, which somewhat delayed it; notwithstanding which, the sore healed in about four months. A similar period has since elapsed, during which, instead of any ground having been lost, I think the parts have given way still more, and the distance between the chin and sternum is now three inches and a half. The old cicatrix is perfectly concealed under the chin, and as she grows up I think very little trace will remain of this deformity.

Case II.—Elizabeth Bean, aged 13. This girl was burnt four years since. The cicatrix was more extensive than in the last case, reaching as far as the lower edge of the second rib; it was exceedingly broad and dense on the thorax, and it was also very broad on the front of the throat, but less dense there than above or below. I did not measure the distance between the chin and the sternum prior to the operation, but I think it was hardly greater than in the last case. The head was tied to the thorax in the same unhappy manner, and the integuments of the face were slightly drawn down even when in the ordinary stooping position. The chin was also affected in this instance.

May 4, 1824.—It would have been a dreadfully severe, and probably a much less serviceable operation, to have dissected the whole of this immense cicatrix, and therefore I adopted the following plan: I made two incisions, one on either end of the cicatrix, of about three or four inches; I then pinched up the cicatrix in the middle, between the finger and thumb of my left hand, and drew it forcibly out: I next pushed a long, straight-backed, narrow knife, through from one incision to the other, and turning its blade outwards, I at once divided the intervening band, making a cut of at least two inches, with very trifling pain; I now freely detached both the flaps, until the girl could carry her chin without dragging the integuments of the thorax.

When the patient is refractory, as in the first case, it is by no means an easy matter, or free from hazard, to dissect up the dense cellular substance from the subjacent parts, obscured as the operation is by very copious bleeding: and in truth, in that case, I was several times under considerable apprehension, notwithstanding the aid of the gentleman who assisted me, that she would have thrust her throat against my knife, which might have been an awkward business if the point had penetrated near the arm of the os hyoideum, where the cicatrix particularly adhered. In this case, therefore, I used a knife much rounded, the point being completely ground away. My present patient was, however, very tractable. I proceeded as before to tuck the upper flap under the chin, and confined it in its situation by broad straps, and broad fillet. Then, having dressed the neck below lightly, to remove the flap in the situation to which it had been separated from the other, (a distance of more than two inches,) I applied a poultice, and over that a pasteboard collar; and I continued this plan for some days, until the chin was formed and suppuration established. I then substituted broad straps in front of the throat, for the pasteboard collar, and applied the screw collar with a short screw. By degrees we were enabled to raise the chin to the full extent of this screw, and the same result was obtained.

The result of this operation has been equally successful as the last; the chin is well formed, and the new cicatrix is soft and pliant. The girl can raise her chin without difficulty above the horizontal line, and the measured distance, without stretching the integuments, is three inches and a half. The neck has now been worn sixteen weeks. In this case I continued a poultice in a bag over the other dressings nearly to the termination of the cure, and with advantage.

VARIETIES.

A SURGICAL OPERATION—of rare occurrence, was recently performed in Ravenna, Fortage county, by Dr. Joseph D. Wolf, on a certain Mr. McGough, of that town. The patient, according to the Western Courier, had been removed from the gash of an explosion of a shell of the Federal Navy, by Dr. John C. Rice, of Ravenna; he had a ball in his stomach, a fragment of coal in his right eye, and a bullet in his ribs. On the 17th of Sept. in consequence of neglect, it became strangulated, and subsequently stricteaued. Surgical aid was then called in, but it was too late to check the occurrence of the inflammation proved unsuccesful. As the only means of saving the life of the patient, an operation was determined on. The abdomen was opened in the umbilical region, and the intestine being found mortified to the extent of eight inches, it was found necessary to remove the diseased part, together with the mesentry connected with it—an operation extremely hazardous, and which was rendered still more difficult in this case, by the close union of the aseptic and the mesenteric artery. The ends of the intestines were then brought together, and secured by four stitches, and the external portion sewed up. Four weeks after the operation, the patient, who is represented as a man fifty years of age, and of intermede habits, rode two miles, and is now able to attend to his ordinary business.—Ohio Scapular.

Medical Books.


A new Edition of Thomas's Practise, with an Appendix, containing several New Treatises, and a large assortment of new and valuable Books, constantly for sale.

HARRISON GRAY, No. 72, Washington St.
OSERVATIONS.

REPORT OF THE SURGEONS OF THE BOSTON
EYE INFIRMARY.

(Concluded from page 142.)

In the hope of being able to ascertain the extent of these evils, and, at some future time, of applying an ample remedy for them, we commenced the establishment of the Infirmary. It has now been in operation nearly fifteen months, and, though prosecuted in a noiseless manner, has afforded abundant evidence of its utility, not only to a great number of suffering individuals, but to the public at large. Eight hundred and fifty-nine patients have applied for relief, and we have every reason to believe that this is but a part of those who have suffered, and that many more would have applied, had they been acquainted with the existence of such an institution. The experience of every day's attendance at the infirmary has afforded such striking proofs of the importance of our labours, that we feel confident they only need be extended to a benevolent public, to secure that public in the infant establishment upon such a foundation as will render it more extensively and more permanently useful.

Of this number of applicants many have been restored to sight from total blindness; and many cured of diseases, which, without the treatment received at the infirmary, most inevitably have terminated in blindness, partial or complete. One patient, who was born blind, has received his sight, and been made to rejoice in the pleasures of light and life, who might, otherwise, perhaps, (to use the simple and energetic words of its father, in a letter of acknowledgment to the Surgeons) “have continued to grope its helpless way through a world of darkness and inactivity.”

Four patients have been led to the infirmary blind, with certificates from their physicians, that their diseases were incurable—and returned home to their friends, enjoying good vision. Hundreds have been entirely relieved of annoying diseases, which, though not dangerous, had deprived them of many of the pleasures of existence; and some had endured them for life, without ever having applied for medical aid, in the belief that they were incurable. We have every week been reminded, by our own experience, of the truth of the remark of the Physician of the New-York Eye Infirmary: “often has it happened to the Surgeons of the Institution, (says he,) to see persons under whose eyes irretrievably destroyed by diseases, under which they suffered in their childhood, and children with the same diseases in a state admitting of an easy cure.” If it were necessary to relate our experience more particularly, we might mention cases of a nature so distressing, as to place the necessity of the Institution beyond the possibility of a doubt in every reflecting mind; and we cannot refrain from relating the two first cases that applied to us, because they confirm, in so striking a manner, the truth of our assertions. One was an active man, about 25 years old, who appeared to be incurably blind. On inquiring into the history of the case, it was ascertained he had present a deplorable condition was the result of mismanagement in a disease, which might, at its commencement have been cured by a single application. The other was a poor girl, whose vision was irretrievably destroyed, the eyes so disorganized and so tendered that their natural figures could not be recognized, and so painful, for a long time, that her health had been seriously impaired. She informed us that she was a stranger, that 6 weeks before, on her arrival into the country, some sand was thrown into her eyes—that she went home, and, being poor and friends, she knew not where to apply for relief, and the inflammation consequent upon the accident had reduced her to her present deplorable condition.

She is now, probably, living in wretchedness among her p enniless friends, or an inmate of some of our private asylums. Had our infirmary been in existence at the time, and generally known among the poor, the infirmation injuring the blindness and deformity of this unhappy child of want, would have been prevented by a very simple process, and she might now enjoy the blessings of sight, and the capacity of being useful and happy.

There are other circumstances which render public Eye Infirmaries valuable institutions wherever they have existed, besides the relief which they afford to the individuals afflicted with the various diseases of the eye. This organ being compound in its structure, and having an example of every tissue of the body entering into its texture, presents a fair specimen of each variety of disease to which the body is subject; and being the only transparent organ of the body, it affords the best opportunity of witnessing the nature and progress of disordered action and learning accurately its effects upon diseased parts. Hence, the information derived from the observation of Diseases of the Eye, throws light upon other diseases, and, by a careful count, they constitute, independently of the consequence of the organ itself, a very important and interesting branch of medical study and observation.

Now, notwithstanding these considerations, they have not received that attention from the Profession which their importance demands. One of the principal causes of this neglect, has been a want of opportunity of observing a sufficient number of these Diseases, which an Institution of this kind always brings together, to enable the Physicians to make these accurate discriminations which are absolutely necessary, before they can be managed successfully. Another is the idea, so prevalent among the Community, that they are a class of diseases which the Profession has never investigated; which idea has always tended, still more; to diminish still more the opportunities for observation in private practice.

The establishment of an Infirmary throws open to the profession a wide field of observation, and affords to Medical Students an opportunity of seeing, in a short time, the great variety of Diseases to which the eye is liable, and soon enables them to discriminate with accuracy and treat them successfully. It is one of the best practical schools of Surgery, and the public will eventually derive incalculable benefit from its establishment, as well by the information which it communicates to medical men, as by the relief which it affords to many suffering members of the community.

We have thus cursorily explained the motives which induced us to engage in this undertaking; and stated the results, thus far, of our labours in this infant Institution. We have performed it cheerfully, and found a pleasant recompense for the exertions and expenses attending them, in the important benefit conferred upon so many suffering individuals. We have done sufficient to demonstrate its importance—as a powerful agent in relieving human suffering—a valuable auxiliary in the pursuit of Medical Science, and, we think, we may add, one instrument, by no means inconsiderable, of aiding public economy. But it requires your fostering care and benevolence to render it more extensively and permanently useful. To that fostering care and benevolence we cheerfully commit it, confident, that, having demonstrated its utility, it cannot, in our charitable community, want friends.

EDWARD REYNOLDS, M. D.
JOHN JEFFRIES, M. D.

Boston, December 22, 1825.

CATALOGUE OF DISEASES TREATED AT THE BOSTON
EYE INFIRMARY.

Patients received from October 1, 1824 to December, 1825 559
Remaining under treatment December 1825 20
Of this number there have been cured 122
Relieved 20
Incurable [eye 30—ear 27] 57
Declined treatment 11
Result not ascertained 14
Remaining under treatment 20
Total 559

Chronic Ophthalmia 39
Rheumatic Ophthalmia 39
Inflammation of the Conjunctiva Acute or Chronic do. do. with Purulent Dis. (Adults) 11
do. do. (Infants) 10
Struma of the Conjunctiva 21
Excrecence of the Conjunctiva 7
Pterygium 7
Staphycoma 10
Iritis 21
Closed Pupil 2
Cataract 46
Amniocystis 83
Strabismus 1
Tetanus 51
Lipidemosis 143
Hemorrhage into the Conjunctiva 4
Inversion of the Eyelids 12
Eversion of the Eyelids 20
Tumors of the Eyelids 5
Abscesses of the Eyelids 4
Ulcers of the Eyelids 2
Diseases of the Lachrymal Passages 54
Chronic inflammation of the brain.

Chronic inflammation of the brain, or its membranes, is much more common than before forty years of age. The causes which most frequently excite it are mental anxiety or over-excitement, the free use of strong wines or liquors, repeated night-watching, great bodily exertion, irregularity of meals, and licentious passions, but sometimes it is the consequence of an acute inflammation, and occasionally it arises insidiously from blows on the head, especially when the diet or drinks have been disregarded for some time after such an injury. Some persons are more prone hereditarily to it than others; but a disposition to it is often laid, in advanced life, by an earthly deposit on the arteries within the head, a condition of vessels at least with which it is often connected. Chronic inflammation of the brain, or the membranes of the brain, is announced by pain in the head, which the patient generally refers to some particular spot. This pain is mostly continued, but in some cases it is only occasional in the commencement. It generally occupies a larger space, when the membranes of the brain are chronically inflamed, than when this substance of the brain is inflamed. After this pain has remained for some time, the patient becomes liable to pains about the neck, scalp, arms, and legs, so that the patient often supposes himself to be rheumatic; but these pains differ from those of rheumatism, in as much as they are not attended by any swelling. Chronic inflammation of the brain, or membrane, is frequently overlooked by practitioners, under the supposition, that the pains and afebrile are altogether rheumatic, an error which has led to fatal results. When these pains are present for some time the patient usually complains of creeping sensations, and then of numbness in the parts affected, which, after that period, gradually, for the most part, but sometimes suddenly lose their power under the form of palsy; but long before the latter disorder occurs, the mind becomes depressed or irritable, and some of the external senses, especially the sight, are apt to be disturbed in their functions. Giddiness is a very common symptom in the progress of the disease, which in the stomach is generally disorderly, the bowels torpid, and the bladder either irritable or torpid. This affection terminates in palsy, apoplexy, low fever, or in some forms of madness.

On examining the brain after death, the membranes are mostly found more or less inflamed, and a portion of the brain is broken down, softened so as to resemble custard pudding or pulp. This softening is generally the gradual consequence of a primary local inflammation, but occasionally a secondary one from an effusion of blood, or from an organic tumor. It is of the utmost consequence to be well acquainted with the symptoms which attend the first stage of inflammation of the brain, that which sometimes exists many days, weeks, or even months before the other accidents of the disease. The pain in a particular part of the head, the pains resembling rheumatism in other parts of the body, depression or irritability of mind, giddiness, some visual weakness or disturbance, and creeping sensations or numbness, are the most diagnostic signs of that stage, and when pain has actually taken place, or when the functions of the mind have become decidedly disturbed, the softening process generally takes place, though some cases do well even after pain has happened in the tongue, hand, or leg, but such instances are exceptions to a general fact.

In the first stage of the disease, great faith should be placed in bloodletting, mild aperients, a spare diet, rest of body, withquietude of mind, as far as the abstraction of all depressing and exciting occasions can be withdrawn. Nothing can be done in the advanced stage, when disorganization has actually taken place, but to palliate the symptoms by removing all opposing circumstances, such as errors in the regimantal and mental management of the sick.

HEADACHES.

By Dr. Rallit.

Many persons of both sexes are affected daily with headaches, more or less severity, for many months, and often for some years. They chiefly prevail towards the middle-time of life, but occur often at an earlier period. They may take place in any part of the head, but are more commonly felt in the forehead, or over one eye, or in the back part of the head. Such headaches I have found in general to be very little relieved by bleeding, either general or topical. In the acute stage if the patients have given me the effect of this remedy, they have said and they have either received no benefit from it at all, or that it has lasted but a few hours; or that the headaches have been worse or better, or not affected at all. I have generally found such headaches to be most benefited by temperate living; great attention to avoid improper diet, purgative medicines, and bitters.

The best common medicine is rhubarb and soap in such doses as to give two motions daily. A few grains of calomel, with an aperient draught, such an infusion of senna with a drachm or two of Epsom salts given occasionally—as, for instance, once in a fortnight or three weeks—are sometimes of much use. A due degree of exercise taken daily, both on foot and on horseback, is likewise in some cases very serviceable. Some headaches I have known relieved by nervouss medicines, but not frequently. In some cases this complaint is relieved by no plan of medical medicines, but with the help of a good-nurse, and after some months or years, subsides. The scent of such headaches is, I believe in the scalp, and not in the inside of the cranium. They depend chiefly for their cause upon the state of the stomach, and bowels, or upon an irritable state of some of the nerves of the scalp. In most headaches of severity, it is right to make one or two trials of the effect of topical bleeding; but not to persevere in the repetition of this measure for many months; as is often done, even though it produce no benefit.

The cutting the hair of the scalp very short, and the application of cold, by a large sponge wrung out of cold water and applied to the upper part of the head, will often give temporary relief when the sick has been previously hot.

IRRITABILITY AND SENSIBILITY.—VI.

CONCLUDED.

Besides those that have been mentioned, there are vegetable motions which may be demonstrated by the direct evidence of sight; and these are thought to display with peculiar clearness the property of sensibility. Among these the contraction of the leaves of the sensitive plant, and dionaea, are the most remarkable. This opinion, however, is liable to many objections, and some sober philosophers have gone so far on the opposite extreme, as to assert that their motions depend on electrical agency, and imply neither sense or irritability.* This last doctrine is certainly erroneous, for electricity, and non-electrics, produce motions precisely the same in nature, degree, and duration.† These contractions, too, are more active in summer than in winter, but electricity is greatest in the colder season. The first doctrine is equally erroneous; for sensibility implies a power of discrimination, and if plants do possess this faculty which the vulgar belief has given them, they must feel the point of a needle or the tickling of a straw more acutely than the smooth surface of a globe; they would be more affected by the fumes of sulphur or the vapor of an alkali, than by the milders agents; but experiment teach us that the sensitive plant is affected as soon by one, as the other, and that both produce motions equally violent and strong. The same is true of the Dionia Muscipula, the leaves of which contract as quickly by the stimulus of a polished ball, as of an insect; and of the staminus of the barberry, which are affected as soon by the blunt end of a pencil, as by the sharp point of a penknife.‡

The pellitory also of flowers, if dried into alcohol, will be tossed to and fro with rapidity; and frequently, after performing several gyrations, will be seen to burst into flame. §

* In favor of this doctrine it has been 'adduced, that the structure of a leaf is not such as is adapted to motion by any vital property—that leaves have no muscles armed with tendons like those of the arm or leg; but the exact structure of a leaf is too minute to be discerned; every minima in the nilit of a codfish has its muscles and its tendons, which we can discern neither.

‡ Abbé Bartholome de St Lazare, in his work, D'Electricité des Végétaux, asserts, publishingly, that the leaves of the mimosa will not contract on the application of smooth glass or polished steel. Experiments teach us otherwise.

§ There is said to be a plant in the E. Indies, of the order Dirospermae, unknown to Linna, which moves its leaves continually, either up and down or circularly. If an impediment be offered, it seems to accumulate irritability while still, for when the obstacle is removed it immediately moves more and rapidly. If a branch is lopped off and put in water, its leaves continue to move twenty-four hours. "The Negros in Bengal call a large species of sensitive plant, which grows in that country, Dicrospora, that is, good-mover, because any thy, when you touch it, or draw near to speak to it, the plant immediately inclines its leaves, to wish you, as it were, a good morrow, and to show you that the land of the people who cultivate it has produced a small sensitive plant, that is rampant, not spinous, and which Mr. Addison affirms to be infinitely more delicate and amiable than all the other species."
these or any other of the phenomena of vegetable nature; and it is most devoutly to be wished that philosophy would banish from its region an idea which was conceived in the rapture of imagination, and is a native of the fairy land of fiction.

Having seen that plants are irritable but cannot feel, we conclude that irritability is a faculty totally independent of sense; whilst sensibility implies also a power of perception and of feeling.

A plant, then, like a man, receives and is influenced by external impressions, and possesses like him a degree of irritability. Of this both are sacrosanct,

so for after laying torpid and apparently lifeless for months, the rose and the bear are revived together by the first healthful breathings of the spring. Man has a mind, and perceives things that are about him; plants have no mind, and therefore do not feel. The material part of both is constantly changing; the irritability of both is constantly exercised by the action of common stimuli; both are affected alike by the light and the storm; and in both the process of natural death is the same. A man dies because the powers of life cannot be preserved in action by usual or extraordinary stimuli;—so a tree dies, not from want of stimulus or power of capillary attraction, but from a loss of irritability; the proximate cause of death is not among external agents, but it is within itself; the very roots of life are snapped, and the whole falls a victim to the storms of years.

SANATIVE INFLUENCE OF ULCERS.

In days of darkness and superstition, it was regarded as impious—as interfering with the order of nature, to apply remedies or preventives of disease to the human body. And this was far from being the most astonishing of the absurd notions which then prevailed. A man is seen walking the streets with scales falling from his hands, or a vivid eruption on the face. His malady is a subject of general observation, and is generally believed to be inflicted on him as a punishment for his transgressions. Anxious to avoid the gaze and the censure of the public, he attempts to remove the disease by some cooling, astringent or disinfectant solution. His object is effected, but at the same time he falls sick of some internal inflammation, and, after much suffering, his constitution is ruined, and hectic and death soon follow.

The case we have here described is by no means an uncommon one; and among a superstitious people, what is more natural than that the fatal result should be regarded as a punishment for human presumption in resisting the sentence of divine justice.

As clearer views of the government of the universe, of the institutions of nature, and of the structure, function, and uses of things have advanced, so those venerable and venerand ideas have been exploded. The term has been banished from the language of science.

Vegetables are most tenacious of their irritability. The members, however dry, particularly the leafy organs, if put into water will grow and flourish. Mr. Gough exposed several leaves of the lemma minor to the heat of the sun for four or five hours; when they seemed perfectly dry and withered. At the end of two days, put into a jar of fresh water, they revived, and continued in health several weeks. Other leaves were kept; a box from July 1797, until March 1800; put into water, they revived and vigorously produced parts of fructification in the succeeding August, the proper season of their flowering. See Nicholson's Journ. vol. 4.

The seed of the sensitive plant will vegetate after being kept one hundred and ninety days. One kept for two years, was afterwards set in water, and exhibited vigorous vegetation. Mr. Brown collected a large number of sensitive plants from the river Wye, near Gloucester, in England.

† That lightning produces the same effects on animals and vegetables, may be seen in several cases related in the London Medical and Physical Journal, No. 227, vol. 30, p. 181, and No. 228, vol. 30, p. 174.

† The petal of the Apocynum Androsaemifolium contract so strongly by the stimulus of the leg of an insect, that the unfortunate little prisoner struggles in vain for liberty. More humane, however, than the cruel diomed, it spares the life, though not the freedom of its prey. The morning glory is the glory of the morning only; and the common water lily, the emblem of purity, that expands with the rising sun, and diffuses such an exquisite fragrance over the surface of the lake, conceals its beauty and withholds its fragrance in the evening. The flower of the common Bellis or Daisy is not only opened by morning light, but moved in a circumstantial direction;

"—the Sunflower turns on her God, when she sets. The same look which she turn'd when he rose."
use of, but to no effect. It appeared to me that something in or about the bowels had caused them to point. Hence, I was more or less of the opinion of the parents, and proceeded to a dissection.

I commenced an incision at the scarabaceus cordis, and continued it to the umbilicus, thence by a bifurcation down to the anterior and superior spinous process of the os ileum. On laying the contents of the abdomen bare, nothing uncommon made its appearance, except that the intestines showed marks of previous inflammation. The liver I found adherent to the diaphragm at least one third part of its upper surface, caused by the inflammation previous to the dissection. No worms could be found, either in the cæcum, stomach or intestines, though a number had been discharged during the treatment for dysentery. In tracing the intestine down from the pylorus, nothing morbid was discovered of consequence, until half the jejunum had been dissected out, where I found one and a half inch of the superior portion inserted into the inferior, and the latter had been so firmly contracted that it was necessary to use considerable force to reduce it. The portion where the disease existed was neither inflamed nor gorged, but had the appearance of having been strongly compressed, particularly at the stricture, where it was pale and contracted.

Montezuma, N. Y. January 11, 1826.

DIFFUSE INFLAMMATION IN THE CELLULAR MEMBRANE.
ARISING SPONTANEOUSLY, OR FROM SLIGHT EXERTION.

BY DAVID SCOTT, M. D.

August 29th, 1825.—Isabel Wilkes, aged 23 years, of florid complexion, and tolerably corpulent, at the time in good health, unmarred, was seized, in the morning immediately on getting out of bed, with severe pain in the bend of the right arm, near the insertion of the biceps flexor, cubiti, which in the course of the day considerably increased, so much so as almost to cause fainting, with great langour of system, and irritability of stomach.

Next day, the whole arm above the elbow became tumid and tense, very sensible to pressure, yet presenting no discoloration as indicative of an injury. On the skin, it was the course of a few days, the pain and the swelling reached the anterior part of the shoulder, afterwards lodged in the axilla, and in process of time spread anteriorly over the whole right breast as far as the sternum, and posteriorly nearly as far as the spine.

After six weeks of severe suffering and pain, accompanied with great exhaustion and constitutional disturbance, symptoms of a matter fluctuation, or buboes, appeared on the inside of the biceps cubiti, in the axilla, and on the anterior and lower part of the breast near the sternum. Yet in none of these cases did the affection point after the manner of a bite or abscess, limited in extent by the effusion of lymph, as indicated by the conical form, inflammation and discoloration, with subsequent thinning of the cutis, from the ulcerative absorption; but the pulsiness was of an uniform diffuseness; the skin not discolored, and showing no disposition to suppurate. However, it was found, in several places, as presenting the best chance of an outlet, when the matter flowed out in large quantities, and continued to flow several weeks, gradually diminishing.

The accompanying fever was of the low typhoid type; the depression of strength, and irritability of system, were great, of the stomach particularly so; and she had occasional opisthotonos followed by peculiar sensation of sinking, as if threatened with immediate dissolution.

The treatment, as conducted by my friend Dr Forbes, with whom I occasionally saw her, was, in the beginning, general, and afterwards local bloodletting, by means of leeches, frequently repeated fomentations, blisters, poultices, and finally wine, with a more generous diet. The good effects from the former of these remedies were never lasting; they merely retarded, but did not arrest the process, which in the variety of inflammation, seems to be its peculiar and ultimate termination.

VARIETIES.

PULMONARY COMPLAINTS.—In case of hemoptysis, or where an effusion of blood takes place from the lungs, from a morbid disorganization of their structure, a prompt and infallible resource might be easily provided, so as to meet the occasion with a safe and decided effect. From experiments, &c., in a glass of water, will occasion an instantaneous collapse of the mouth of the vessel producing this distressing and dangerous affection. Dr Ebbitt, then lecturing on the subject of the larynx, had ruled it to stop short and deviate from his anatomical discussions, in order to arrest the attention of his pupils to this important fact. He confessed his ignorance of the mode by which this specific produced its sudden impression; for long before it could have acted through the medium of the circulation, the object was generally effected. Such patients should provide themselves with a bowl of boiling water, so as to allow of time to be armed with immediate relief, for want of which life is rendered daily precarious, and not frequently lost, through the miseries of suffocation.

INFLAMMATORY FEVER.—The inflammatory fever called tabes, is common in hot as well as in cold climates. The curative method adopted by the ancients in the subject, considered an improvement on the cold affusion. Some clay is procured, and mixed with water until it acquires the consistence of batter, but the patient is smeared all over his body with it; after an hour or two an examination takes place, if the patient has become parched, and is perchased off, death is considered to be the inevitable result; but if it be cracked, and the pieces adhere to the body, a favorable result is expected. This is most probably the mode in which the discovery of the new medicine, so as to call for a few minutes of time, which is rendered daily precarious, and not frequently lost, through the miseries of suffocation.

MÉDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

A CONCEPTUS OF PHARMACOPEIAE OF THE LONDON, EDINBURGH AND DUBLIN COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS, being a Practical Treatise on the Subject of Medicine, and Pharmacy by ANTHONY TOWN THOMSON, first American, from the fifth London edition, improved by the additions of the United States Pharmacopœia, and the new medicine. An Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery, by THOMAS DEMPSEY, from the last London edition, with notes by Dr John W. FRANCIS, of New York. A new edition of THOMAS’ PRACTICE, with an appendix by DR DAVID HOSACK, of New York: and a large assortment of other new and valuable Medical Books, constantly for sale by HARRISON GRAY, No. 72, Washington St.
GENERAL ABSTRACT

OF THE

BILL OF MORTALITY FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON,

FROM THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1825, TO JANUARY 1, 1826, AGREEABLY TO THE RECORD KEPT AT THE HEALTH OFFICE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Under 1</th>
<th>1 to 2</th>
<th>2 to 5</th>
<th>5 to 10</th>
<th>10 to 20</th>
<th>20 to 30</th>
<th>30 to 40</th>
<th>40 to 50</th>
<th>50 to 60</th>
<th>60 to 70</th>
<th>70 to 80</th>
<th>80 to 90</th>
<th>90 to 100</th>
<th>Stillborn</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>134,100</td>
<td>38,850</td>
<td>57,470</td>
<td>27,190</td>
<td>10,325</td>
<td>8,745</td>
<td>4,130</td>
<td>2,870</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following are the Diseases, so far as they have been reported to the Health Office, which have occasioned the deaths in the City during the past year.

Fever, Typhus - 54
Typhoid Fever - 15
Cholera Morbus - 10
Dysentery - 5
Pleurisy - 6
Pneumonia - 14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 20
Otitis - 2
Influenza - 7
Intemperance - 12
Phrenitis - 3
Diaphragmatic Hernia - 1
Enteritis - 13
Hepatitis - 16

Infantile Diseases - 44
Suffocation - 1
Infantile Rupture - 4
Cholera Infantum - 5
Poison - 1
Debility - 6
Diphtheria - 2
Peritonitis - 5
Biliosa - 3
Scarlet Fever - 1
Jaw Abscess - 2
Brainerd - 1
Scrofula - 4
Calculus - 4
Cystitis - 4
Hepatitis - 2
Diaphragmitis - 4
Phthisis - 2
Asthma - 2
Tonsillitis - 2
Disease of Heart - 3
Disease of Brain - 1
Old Age - 38

By order of the Mayor and Aldermen,

SAMUEL H. HEWES, Superintendent of Burial Grounds.

OBSERVATIONS.

INFLAMMATION.

Dr. Rush, in his work on the mind, lays it down as a fact, ascertained by observation, that one set of arteries may pulsate more frequently than another, in the same system, and at the same time. His words are: "It is probable the pulsations of the arteries in the brain, were preternaturally frequent in the brain, in the few cases in which they were natural, at the wrists."*

The philological character of the above quotation is not less remarkable, than the physiological sentiment it attempts to maintain is extraneous.

Every man in anywise conversant with the anatomy of the arteries, and the circulation of the blood, will know the doctrine advocated by

* Rush on the Mind, p. 20.

Dr. Rush must be physically and necessarily incorrect. He must apprehend that the column of blood, with its basis at the valves of the ventricles of the heart, extends through all the branches of the whole aortic system, unbroken and uninterrupted, to the extremity of every individual artery; and that when a wave of blood is impelled by the contraction of the left ventricle, the whole column, however, ramified, must be propelled at the same instant, and in equal degree. Of consequence, the moving column must pass through each division of the arterial system at the same moment, producing what is termed the dilatation, or distension of the arteries, in other words, the pulse, and also causing a simultaneous pressure on the extremity of each branch.

This uniform and simultaneous motion is not only possible or probable, but necessary; otherwise the column of blood were, in the main trunk and ramifications, not continuous. It must be divided or the fluid be compressible. A conception wholly absurd to every mind in anywise acquainted with the fluid termed the blood; or else, the column must move as I have assumed, and the dilatation be synchronous in every division of the arterial system. As the new wave enters the periphery, the more distant points of the ramified column must be urged against the extremities of the various branches, and the arteries dilate in all their divisions at the same instant.

This being a necessary truth, and the contraction or systole of each artery being nothing but a recovery of the artery to its quiescent from its dilated state, it necessarily follows, that it is physically impossible for one set of arteries to pulsate more frequently than another. Thus we may conclude, that an increase of action supposed to exist in an inflamed part, cannot be referred to any possible relative frequency of ac-
tion. Then if the doctrine of an increased action of inflamed parts be defensible, it must derive its importance from a more vigorous and complete contraction of the arteries concerned.

In the systole, or contraction of every artery, the walls of the artery must mutually approach each other; must approximate more nearly the axis, or centre of the tube; of consequence there would be less blood contained than when in the ordinary state; the parts would become paler—less common—and lower in temperature, affording the reverse of the phenomena absolutely present in an inflammation. The increase real and apparent, of pulsation, sensible to both the patient and physician in the inflamed parts, or even in the part itself congested, cannot be referred to a more vigorous contraction of the vessels, for a more vigorous contraction would cause the walls more completely and rapidly to retire from the exploring finger. The pulsation of which the professional man speaks, is the dilatation of the walls, caused by the force from the heart, and will always be different in part, according to the incompetency of the walls of the artery to resist the impelling energy, a tergo, or the want of balance between the general and local powers.

It is remarked in a surgical work, with which the public has been favored by the pen of Baron Boyer, that "the blood flows from all parts towards the irritated point, and gets there even contrary to its usual course, i.e. by retrograding in certain vessels until it reaches the centre of inflammation." And again, "that irritation draws the blood from all points of the circumference to the centre of the irritated part. This afflux of the blood produces the dilatation and augmentation of the action of the arteries." &c. "that the irritation, while it attracts the humors, augments the action of the solids of the part inflamed in such a manner that the vital action becomes stronger in the part, and is more manifest to our eyes by the clearer development of the conscious which characterize it. In the heat, the result is the inflammatory tension, announce an augmentation of the vital powers, and the organic action of the capillaries."—

We, have in the above quotation, a striking specimen of the happy facility with which words may be fluently thrown into order, without having the remotest intelligible meaning infused into them. "That irritation draws the blood from all points of the circumference to the centre of the irritated part," is predicated upon principles altogether gratuitous. It would be very difficult to understand, how the irritation could draw the blood from any one point, without, at the same time, admitting that this irritation did either augment the diameters of the old vessels, or produce new arterial channels from the heart to the part irritated. Much more difficult would it be, to conceive how the blood could flow from all parts, in progression and regression, laterally and obliquely, from the heart to the central point of irritation, through the arteries. The veins have valves. The current from the heart to any given point of irritation could not be augmented, except new channels, as already remarked, were opened, or old ones enlarged. For whatever might be the consequence of the vessels of the part being weakened and augmented in diameter, as regards the accumulation of the fluids in, or slow progress through them, it is very certain, that no more blood could possibly flow into them than might come in the usual way and usual quantity. I have frequently heard professional men, in loose unmeaning conversation, speak of an increased determination of blood to a diseased part, but, I confess, that I was not prepared to expect that any writers, in a serious and grave style, would pour out such nonsense on paper. Surely no irritation of a foot or hand, can enlarge the great arterial trunks leading to it; or give an additional trunk to the ordinary set. And if it cannot, how is it possible there can be an increased flow of blood to any one point, in any given time, without an increased action of the heart, from fever or exercise, in the general circulation.

But the learned Baron assures us, that the "blood gets there even contrary to its usual course, by retrograding in certain vessels." It is understood generally, by physiologists, that the column of blood is continuous from the heart, through all the arterial ramifications, to the extremity of each artery. If this be a fact, and I believe no man will be hardly enough to deny it, by what part is an increased action of the heart, or retrograde movement, contrary to the impelling power of the heart and great arteries? The vessels of the part being weakened and dilated, the blood which comes on will move through them more or less slowly, according to the augmentation and reduced power of the diseased vessels, but assuredly there can be no retrograde action. The thing is altogether inconceivable and impossible, except where an artery is divided or lacerated. The writer says, "the blood gets there contrary to its usual course," if it be so, that irritation be at all admitted, I have no hesitation in saying, it must be ascribed to the usual understanding of every man possessed of a sound intellect.

On that part of the Baron's opinion which refers the accumulation, in part, to a lateral and oblique flux, for an oblique and lateral flux there must be, if the irritation draws the blood from all points of the circumference, the reader no more, than the author, permit me to be silent, his any common sense having anticipated the absurdity.

But we are further informed, "that the afflux of blood produces the dilatation and augmentation of the arteries." Hence we find a very improbable consequence bottomed upon a groundless assumption. Not only is there an afflux of blood from all surrounding points, which I flatter myself, has been shown to be a thing of imagination only, but this imaginary afflux produces a dilatation, and augmentation of the action of the vessels. I wonder does not this bechemically, or physically, and believe the reader will be, equally with myself, totally at a loss to conceive how any afflux could produce either a dilatation of the vessels, or an augmentation of the action of the vessels of the part.

That an irritating cause could produce a reduction of the powers of life in the vessels, and that there would be a consequential yielding in the coasts of the vessels to the impetus of the ordinary current, and thus a dilatation and augmentation of the vessels take place, the reader might admit, but I am confounded with will experience no less difficulty, than that under which I labor, to comprehend how this afflux can occur, and produce this dilatation and augmentation of which the Baron so unreservedly discourses.

Again,—"In fact," says the author, "the heat, the redness, the inflammatory tension, announce no augmentation of the vital powers, and the organic action of the capillaries."

The fulness of vital power in every part, I apprehend, consists in the perfection of the function, under the natural laws of the part, going on, in harmony and ease, according to the purposes for which its economy is constituted—that is, in the maintenance of the most perfect health. In proportion as the function may be disturbed or interrupted, and the organization forced into array, must be the reduction of the powers, and the breaking up of the powers of life. And whatever disturbs the function, or breaks up the organization of a part, must act primarily on its powers of life. For so long as the powers of life can resist, so will the economy remain settled, and the texture be, according to the design of nature, unharmed and unimpaired. There can neither be preternatural redness, nor pain, nor heat, nor inflammatory tension, without disease.

If the vital powers are augmented by inflammation, it were a discongruity in the extreme, to assume that inflammation is disease; or could produce any condition but that of a higher gradation of health. For what is health but a given condition of vital power? And what could be an increase of health otherwise than an augmentation of this vital power? If an augmentation of vital power be not an augmentation of health, then have I lost all conception of the consequences of an increase of vital power and of health, and words cease to convey ideas. It inflammation is herein bad. If inflammation be the action of the vital powers, what is to be said of gangrene and splanchnus, sometimes the consequences of inflammation? (To be continued.)

OF PALPITATION OF THE HEART.

By Dr. Bailie.

Palpitation of the heart may take place at any period of life; but it is more common at an early period than any other,—as, for instance, from fifteen to twenty-five years of age. Perhaps, too, it may be more common in females than in males; but of this I am not very certain. At an early period of life, it does not generally depend upon any diseased structure of the heart, but either on a morbid irritability of this organ, or upon some imperfect state of digestion. When it takes place from either of these causes, it almost always continues for a long time, often, more or less, for two or three years, but at length generally subsides.

Rest of body and quietness of mind are two of the chief means which contribute to remove this disease. All quick motions of the body, and more especially walking up and down steps increase the complaint, and should as much as possible be avoided. Everything which tends to excite or harass the mind has the same effect, and should be shunned whenever it is possible. To rest of body and mind should be joined very temperate diet; and, when this general plan of management has been continued for many months, or perhaps for a year or two, the disease usually subsides. Digitalis has sometimes been useful in mitigating this complaint, but frequently it produces no good effect.

Where the palpitation depends, either altogether or chiefly, upon the state of the stomach, it is gradually removed by temperance, by im-
proving the condition of the stomach, and by keeping the bowels free from constiveness. I remember one case in which palpitation of the heart had taken place, and had continued for six months, in consequence of gout having attacked this organ. In this case the palpitation ceased suddenly and entirely when the gout attacked one of the feet in a full and decided form. This person is now alive, and has continued generally in good health, although it is nearly twenty years since the attack of palpitation.

In young persons, palpitation depends upon an enlargement of the several cavities of the heart, produced not unfrequently by rheumatism attacking this organ. This cause of enlargement of the heart was overlooked by the physicians of this country, till it was discovered by the sagacity of my esteemed friend, the late Dr. David Pitcairn. The enlargement, in general, grew on increasing little by little; but I have known two cases where the enlargement stopped at a certain point, the increased action of the heart in a great measure subsided, and the patients acquired a tolerable share of health. They are both now alive, and they have the prospect of living, with care, to the ordinary term of life. Such a fortunate issue is very rare; but the disease may be generally retarded in its progress by much rest of body; quietness of mind, and a very temperate mode of living. Wine and every other fermented liquor should be avoided; and the patients, under such circumstances, should live almost entirely upon vegetable food.

At the middle and more advanced periods of life, palpitation of the heart often depends upon a diseased structure of some of its valves. This condition of the heart does not admit of any remedy, but most gradually become worse, until life be extinguished. But the symptoms may be mitigated, and the progress of the disease retarded by the body, by great temperance, and by a few ounces of blood being occasionally taken from the arm.

ULCERS.

In our last we gave a case in which an ulcer was the means of preserving the life and health of a woman 84 years of age, and made some observations on the danger of attempts to cure such local difficulties. It should be remembered that this rule will apply to but few complaints of the surface, and it is for the skill and discrimination of the physician to point out the cases in which his remedies may be beneficial. To aid in this distinction many circumstances must be attended to which are too minute to be described here. But one general rule is to be regarded in every case, which is this: If when applied to to treat a disease of the surface, we find the general health good, there is a strong presumption that the local affection contributes to the constitutional vigor: if on the other hand we find general debility to accompany cutaneous degeneration, the probability in this case is that the local disease is a source of irritation and should be removed.

For the purpose of illustrating this rule we will relate a strong case which occurred in our practice a few years ago, and which, in connection with that detailed last week will show the sense in which we wish this general rule to be regarded.

This was the case of a young married woman—she had been considered by her friends and physicians as in a consumption, and soothing medicines only were administered. We were requested by her friends to call, and if we did not consider her case hopeless, to do something for her relief. Her cough—copious expectoration—piss in the side and difficult respiration—pallid lips and weak intermitting and almost imperceptible pulse—want of appetite, indigestion, obstinate diarrhoea, and frequent discharge of large quantities of pure blood per an numerical debility and restless nights, and great emaciation, the pearly whitens of the sclerotics, a hectic flush on the cheeks, and in fact her whole appearance gave but too striking a sanction to the opinion of those around her. On more accurate examination a large saccular ulcer was found to cover the whole foot and the leg up to within 6 inches of the knee; it discharged itself very freely by several deep sinuses—but the whole was an open ulcer.

This was dressed with a mixture of the ung.—stram., and some mild earcharic; and a grain of acut. plum. given every night in 10 grs. of Dovers powder. When the hemorrhage from the bowels ceased and their discharge became regular and natural, she took bark and wine, at first in small quantities and increasing till she took both very liberally—he was soon able to cat broc and beef-stick. She was ordered to live freely on animal food, to continue the bark and wine—and to apply the ointment to the ulcer twice a day, washing it as often in castile soap Suds.

As the ulcer healed, the symptoms of consumption disappeared, and when at the end of four months the leg was entirely well, there was no trace of general or local disease left, and this young woman, full of gratitude, returned to her usual occupation, which she has since pursued without any recurrence of her complaints.

THE SEASON.

The winter thus far, and particularly the present month, except the last week, has been remarkably mild, and what most people denominate unhealthy. To every climate and to every variation of weather, have long since been allotted the degree in which they favorably or unfavorably affect the human constitution. But extensive inquiries, the comparison of tables of mortality, and long continued experience, have allowed of few conclusions being drawn favoring this allotment, that will bear the test of careful examination. In spring we have inflammatory complaints; in autumn, bilious diseases; in every season, fevers—in the commencement inflammatory, in the conclusion more or less putrid. Continued cold produces a tenseness in the fibres, a strong and steady action of the vascular system, which predisposes to inflammation; high situations, with a pure, bracing atmosphere, produce similar effects. Those who are moderately healthy, and not peculiarly robust, find a winter of no extreme cold, healthy; and the opening spring, expanding the fibres, gives a genial glow and new life to every organ. Summer, of course, may produce its own diseases; but in the history of epidemics, no particular bad effects can be traced to the heat; till the evenings begin to cool, fruit to be plenty, and the bile to become a conspicuous cause of disease, from its accumulation and excessive discharges. Winter again recurs, and the bills of mortality show that it is a fatal season; old people resist cold with difficulty—catalepsy, asthma, and similar complaints, often carry them off at this period.

Men live and enjoy health from the heat of the country twenty eight to a hundred and eight degrees of Fahrenheit. They can exist in a constant fog, where the hygrometer proceeds beyond the extreme of humidity; and in air which supports the mercury only at twenty two or twenty three inches, they are robust and active. Sudden changes are indeed injurious; but the injuries are often transitory and inconsiderable; or if severe, producing only temporary and acute diseases.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER
FROM DR. ROBERT D. NASH,
CONCORD, PENN.

For the last six or eight weeks our country has been unhealthy in consequence of the extreme vicissitudes in the weather. The complaints have generally been of an inflammatory character, and what has been very remarkable, nearly all (particularly young subjects) have been attended at the onset with extreme irritation of the stomach, not as I apprehend proceeding from the presence of any offending substance in the stomach, but from that organ associating with the general morbid excitement in but one case did I suppose the complaint to be primary with the stomach, and they have all yielded, with the exception of that case, to the ordinary treatment of inflammatory diseases—copious bleeding and purging, and promotion of a healthy cutaneous discharge. The successful practitioner of medicine is more concerned to co-operate with nature, and assist her to perform the great office to which she is always disposed, than to enter into subtle theories. Our last year has been generally healthy—our diseases less malignant than those of the two preceding years; intermissions most common. One of the best tonics I have used for the cure of them, is Fowler's mineral solution.

In several cases of ganglion, I have succeeded in effecting a speedy cure by evacuating the contents of the tumor by an opening made with a common spring lancet, being careful to force out entirely the contents, and to prevent the admission of air to the cavity, which I apprehend to be the cause of all the inflammation which follows in any case. I always cover the wound with a sufficient linen compress, well moistened with camphorated spirits, and supported or confined by a sufficient bandage.

Two cases of chorea dauci viti have lately recovered under my treatment by the use of iron (rubigo ferri) in doses twice a day—both males of 11 or 12 years of age; both cases required a continued medicine for 30 or 40 days. As an auxillary, in one case I applied Provit. C. Per. to the body externally.

For the Medical Intelligencer,
A BROKEN HEART.

King George the 2d, died as suddenly as if he had been shot through the heart, without any previous illness, at the age of 77. On examining the body, the left ventricle was found ruptured. The hole in it admitted, with some difficulty, the end of the finger.

George 2d was a healthy man, and temperate in his habits of living, but very passionate; sometimes his insubordination went farther than words. His countrymen, the Germans, are perhaps the most passionate people on the globe, and the reason is because the heart, which probably arises from violent passion, impeded in the expression of it. The Irish are very passionate, and they never hesitate to express it in words or deeds, whereas the Germans, are a remarkable ceremonious race, and the upper ranks especially, bound down by the rules of decorum. There are more instances of sudden vi-
VARIETIES.

American Medical Biography.—James Truex, M. D. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and of the American Modern Practice, &c. &c. announces to the public that he is about to commence a work entitled "American Medical Biography," in connection with a history of the rise and progress of medical science in America from the first settlement of our country. The object of this work is to give the names and characters of all the eminent and reputable physicians who have finished their career and are worthy of a grateful remembrance. It is to be published in a series of volumes, each of which will contain the names and characters of a selected number of physicians. The work will be issued at a moderate price, and will be a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the history of medicine in America.

Preserving Antimonial Preparations.—Dr. Macarthy, of Dublin, substitutes a thin plate of iron, coated with antimony, for the former troublesome and offensive use of putrid bladder, sheet-lead, &c. It is essential that the Indian rubber should be painted or varnished; otherwise, it will not adhere to the leather, and the preparation will not last long enough to be effective.

Professor Leslie.—This able practical philosopher, as we are led to believe, has published a work on "The Science of the Human Body." It is intended to be a comprehensive treatise on the subject, and will be a valuable contribution to the knowledge of human physiology.

The American Medical Journal, in an important series of experiments on "The Disposal of Rubbish," has published a paper on the subject of the disposal of household rubbish. The paper is well written, and contains a number of important experiments, which are likely to be of great practical value.

Mortality.—The number of deaths in Dover, during the year 1825, was one hundred and ninety; in Portsmouth, N. H., one hundred and ninety-two; in New-Brunswick, one hundred and ninety-two; and in New-York City, one hundred and ninety-two.

New York.—A new work of Professor Richerich, of Paris, has excited a lively sensation in the medical world. It is entitled, "A History of the Recent Progress of Surgery." The work is well written, and contains a number of important discoveries, which are likely to be of great practical value.

There are two hundred and eighty-two pupils in the Medical University at Kentucky.

To Correspondents.—"M. F. V." is highly interested; it shall be published immediately if he will favor us with his name. We cannot be responsible for anonymous letters.

A Constant Reader's suggestions are very good; we will receive his views at any time with all the means in our power.

We recognize an old friend from our establishment, whose attention we are always happy to acknowledge.

To Dr. M. of Pa. We are obliged for his favor.


January 29.—James Smith, 4; Child of Sally Weeks. 21st.—Otho French, 60. 22d.—Abigail Dean, 48; Sarah Gray, 62; Thomas Hudson Vose, 34; Adrian Williams, 42; James V. Baldwin, 27; Thos. Vose, 33. 24th.—James O'Gourdy, 12 mo; Child of Charles F. Hildreth. 25th.—Minas Prescott, 23; Ellen Williams, 27; James Durell, 2; Stephen Corrigan, 27; and a Child. 26th.—In the West end of the nave, immediately before the organ. 27th.—Sarah Gildea, 24; Jeremiah Hackett, 27; Child of Mrs. Trask: Michael Quinlan, 30; Caleb S. Barlow, 25. 28th.—Death in the Brain. 1—Stillborn, 20; Poison, 1—Drunkard, 16; 52; 2—Lung Cancer, 1—Lung-Phthisis, 1—Consumption, 23—Croup, 2—Child, 1—Infantile, 2—Burn, 1, City Poet, 2.

Diagnoses of the Brain, 1—Stillborn, 20; Poison, 1—Drunkard, 16; 52; 2—Lung Cancer, 1—Lung-Phthisis, 1—Consumption, 23—Croup, 2—Child, 1—Infantile, 2—Burn, 1, City Poet, 2.

A CONSPIRACY OF PHARMACOPeias OF THE LONDON, EDINBURGH AND DUBLIN COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS, being a Practical Compendium of Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, by AMBROSE TARR THOMSON, first American, from the last London edition, with notes by Dr. JOHN W. FRANCIS, of New-York.

A New Edition of THOMAS' Practice, with an Appendix by Dr. David Boscaw, of New-York; and a large assortment of other new and valuable Medical Books, for sale.

HARRISON GRAY, No. 72, Washington St.

Vaccination.

The undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the publication of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others.

Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any person or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: Private Tickets at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holder of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years, and Public Tickets at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighborhood of any particular Post Office to the vaccine matter, one or more times, for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular office the matter must be made. Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages herebefore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them accordingly to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received on any other subject than Vaccination, and to the Vaccine therein is paid.

Vaccine Institution, 3 JAMES HILL, Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.

(2) The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occurred under similar circumstances, was not the result of any mistake made by Dr. Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be traced to the recurrence of a common trick, that, under certain circumstances, is always suspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to the original paper, published by Dr. Smith, 20th January, 1824, to Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exculpates Dr. Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Sept. 27.
REVIEW.

Reply to Dr. Hosack's Inaugural Address, delivered before the Medical Society of the County of New-York, on the 12th day of July, 1824. By Charles Whitlaw. Phil. pp. 48.

"Now my lady Penelope Penfold had fallen sick, and a piper boy had ever lain sick, and she was to be cured some gate anither body ever was cured — whilk was na mair than reasonable." — St Ron. Well.

It would be amusing, if it were not mortifying, to trace the history of the various plans of medical treatment, laying claim to novelty and superior efficacy, which have followed one another so rapidly upon the stage of public confidence for the last ten years; to observe their first development, and their gradual progress till they arrive at meridian glory, in the distinguished notice of lords and ladies, members of parliament, and judges of the supreme court; and their final downfall, under the relentless hand of those unceremonious destroyers of quackery, Time and Experience. To illustrate our meaning, it needs only to mention the "Ear Medicinals, Sir W. Adams' New Operations on the Eye, Swain's Panacea, Dr. Urban's Rain Water, Sweet's Rubbing, Conway's Patent Medicines, and Messrs. Thomson and Whitlaw's respective Steam Baths. And yet all these modes of treatment are supported by facts, facts as uncolored and undoubted, as those upon which rest the credit of Mesmer's magnetism, or Prince Hohenlohe's miracles. How is it that these "facts" are reconcilable with the perishable nature of the materials of which these delusions are composed? And how is it that, as Tamiast like the spirit of Quackery rees from each new defeat with renovated vigor? We believe that it requires only careful examination and candid judgment to explain the matter; and that in all these plans for gorging the public appetite for the marvellous, after making a suitable deduction on the score of falsehood and exaggeration, it will be found of what remains, as the venerable Bunsenbach once said to Spurgeon, that "your new things are not true, and your truth is not new."

The pamphlet, the sole of which we have placed at the head of these observations, is an attempt to introduce to the notice of the public one of these systems of curing all maladies. In order to convey to our readers some idea of what it purports to do, we will begin our notice of his pamphlet, as we were wont to do our Hebrew psalters, at the page next the right hand cover; we here find —

"The effects of the vapor-bath are:

1st. To equalize the circulation, and hence to remove swellings of the hands and feet, and to lessen the lassitude or flow of blood to the head.

2d. To promote sweat, and re-establish insensible perspiration, and thereby to relieve symptoms of intermittent fever.

3d. To diminish nervous irritability.

4th. To promote cutaneous eruptions, and remove diseases of the skin.

5th. To remove the effects of mercury from the system.

6th. To promote absorption of dyspeptic effusions.

7th. To relieve difficulty of breathing, and hence to cure asthma, and other diseases of the chest and lungs.

8th. To strengthen the stomach, and impart a tone to the digestive organs.

9th. To promote the healing of scrofulous and chronic ulcers.

10th. To remove gouty and rheumatic swellings from the joints.

11th. The quinine. — The bath has never failed to remove it.

12th. The croup. — It may be regarded as a specific.

13th. The hooping cough, — gives great relief.

14th. The membranes in instances of dead having been taken place when the bath has been employed."

The evidence of the strength of which we are called upon to believe in the efficacy of the vapour-bath, mediated by certain Indian roots and plants (for we find it stated, p. 5, that Mr. Whitlaw, while in this country on a former visit, "received great assistance from a native Indian"), is rather scanty and cursory, and consists mainly of the following items: —

1st. A report in favor of Mr. W.'s plan, from a committee consisting of eighteen gentlemen, none of whose names, to our knowledge, ever reached these shores before, except those of Robert Ackerman, Esq. and Dr. Thornton. The latter is the only one who can be supposed capable of passing a judgment upon medical treatment, and how far he is so, may be doubted, if he is, as we suppose, a man advanced in years, and the author of Medical Extracts, a fanciful and discursive work, filled with the errors of the Brunonian and Darwinian systems. None but an actual practitioner can be fully competent to decide upon the comparative merits of different modes of treatment. This gentleman's name lies at the root of the whole matter. On account of its being connected with that of an "itinerant vendor of American herbs," it was struck from the list of the Royal College of Physicians; and, as James Johnson, the able editor of a spirited British periodical, the Medical Chirurgical Review, and Dr. Hosack, of New-York, are placed at issue with Mr. Whitlaw, by condemning, in strong terms, the conduct of the College.

2d. Certain lords and members of Parliament, admirals, and a noble duke, with sundry notified individuals, have even hit so far to patronize the "discoveries" of Mr. Whitlaw, as to establish an asylum for the treatment of one in the catalogue of diseases which he pretends to cure. Of the weight of this evidence the American public will probably judge for themselves, and will perhaps agree with us in thinking this is not the only instance in which the sanction of titles of nobility and of high rank, have been procured to bolster up an attempt to cany home phlegmasia. And as for the mere weight of names on this side the water, that of Sir Hosack and James Johnson, would, on such a subject, preponderate against those of all the blood royal of the United Kingdom.

3d. In the third place there is offered an abstract of cases treated according to Mr. W.'s principles. These were cases of chronic disease of the bones, glands, or skin, and were nearly as much benefited by the treatment, as the half-starved and filthy paupers of the metropolis of England might have been expected to become, when placed, for a period of from four to ten months in a clean and comfortable "asylum," by the kindness of most merciful dukes and sympathetic aldermen, excluding ardent spirits, and being supplied with comfortable clothing and suitable nourishment, with free use of air, exercise, and the deterrent operation of a "medicated vapor bath." It is no more than might be expected that a verdict of "cured," and very materially by this means, should have been carried out against the names of patients who, from the very meagre details of their cases which are furnished, do not, on the whole, appear to have undergone any material change.

Accordingly, we find that a case is progressively advancing to "convalescence," when a "glandular swelling in the neck, which has existed for some time, is advancing to suppuration;" and a patient is "cured" of perrigo, when the eruption has disappeared, all except a "slight scurfiness, for which her head is ordered to be re-shaved." The truth is, that, in so much of the disease treated at the "Bayswater Asylum," is the result of the errors of the public; and, if the case be removed, their effects cease. Is it not, then, so far, a praiseworthy system? The answer belongs to our concluding remarks.

4th. A portion of evidence in support of Mr. Whitlaw's scheme, and in defense of it from some cruel sarcasms thrown out against it by Sir Astley Cooper, is the letter from Mr. Josiah Alport, one of those benevolent characters — who believe not uncommon in England — who are not content with the responsibilities of the clerical profession, but greatly assume those of the medical also. Mr. Alport asserts that Mr. Whitlaw's plan is a "specific for scrofula," and Sir Astley Cooper "lays it down as an axiom, that there is no specific for the care of scrofula; and he who says there is, attempts to gull mankind by the assertion of what is not true." The weight of evidence is with the Burenet, and however his assertion may affect the veracity of Mr. Whitlaw and his revered friend, "it will go weath to be thought so shortly."

5th. In conclusion, it is presumed by Mr. Whitlaw to assert, as a sort of corollary from the foregoing proofs, that the vapour-bath will cure Indigestion, Gout, Rheumatism, Croup, Measles, Yellow Fever, &c., &c., and it is evinced, in capital letters, that CANCER itself must disappear before its all healing influence. It is in the ranks of valutinarians generally, rather than of the scrofula particularly, that we fear the operation of this panacea. The nervous dyspeptic, the fanciful hypochondriac, the irritable rheumatic, are its most frequent victims. We have already seen several of this class, who in bitterness rue the day they trusted their cuticles to be parboiled in steam. With these it cannot claim the exemption from blame yielded to sage and sound, and hygein, that "if it do no good, it will do no harm."
There will be cures, wonderful cures under such processes, among patients who would have recovered by trusting nature and giving her fair play, in the hands of any man of judgment—but these will be at the expense of much misery to the incurable: and we do not hazard much in predicting, that before Sir Astley's 70-year round of service shall be concluded, the appearance of Mr. Whitlaw's will be laid on the shelf with Dr. Jenkins' air bath, and many other exploded theories.*

But are we who declaim against the progress of quackery, ourselves disinterested? Candidly, we are not. We love our profession—we love to see it honored by the confidence of the wise and the good, of all ranks in life. We execrate quackery, because a well meaning man is not always a discriminating one, and the blunders of quackery are oftentimes laid to the charge of the faculty; and cases which are going on well, but slowly, under the guidance of scientific skill, are often wrested from their true benefactors, and made to swell the triumphs of charlatanism. We foresee another evil, that some among our medical brethren may be blinded by the apparent success of these boasted "new methods," and may be induced to desert the high and honorable paths of knowledge and assiduity, for the disgraceful rout of empiricism.

To such we say, beware! In this enlightened community, our profession will be supported so long as we retain the skill and useful knowledge adequate to meet the emergencies of disease; and God grant that it may be supported no longer.

P.

OBSErvATIONS.

CANCER DOCTORS.

JUStICE'S COURT.—PROVIDENCE (H. I.)
Ruth Wheeler vs. John W. Hill.

Mrs. Ruth Wheeler, who has been somewhat celebrated for the care of cancers, and who for some time past has practiced in this town in that department, brought an action of assumpsit on book account against the defendant for attending upon her wife and "curing the cancer" ten different times, the charge for the services so rendered amounting to $12. The defendant

* In reference to Dr. Myddelton's inhaler—an old doctrine revived—we refer our readers to the following passage from Darwin's "Zoönomia":

"The external ulcers in scrofulous habits are pale and flabby, and naturally dissolved to heal, the deposition of fluids in them being greater than the absorption; these ulcers have their appearance immediately changed by the external application of magnetic fluxes and the medicines of the new corroboria, such as cerussa and the Peruvian barks in fine powder, and are generally healed in a short time by these means. Induced by these observations, I wished to try the external application of such powders to ulcers in the lungs, and I constructed a box, with a circulating brush in it. Into this box two ounces of fine powder of Peruvian bark were put, and two drachms of cerussa in fine powder; on whirling the central brush, part of this was raised into a cloud of powder, and the patient applying his mouth to one of the tin pipes rising out of the box, inhaled this powder twice a day into his lungs. I observed it did not produce any cough or uneasiness, though it was a matter of great amusement to have I had such patients as I wished for the repetition of it. Perhaps, &c.—"Zoönomia. Class II., 6. 7.

Has Dr. Myddelton invented or even improved this plan? Indeed, in the only English editions, a distinct plate is given of the whole apparatus.
Physicians who have fallen victims to that last enemy, whose approach to their friends it was their business and their good fortune to arrest. Since the first settlement of this country, there have been many and indeed wonderful changes in its medical history. The profession of Physic was scarcely known in America till towards the close of the seventeenth century. In imitation of the customs of the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, the cure of the sick, among our early forefathers, devolved on the clergy; and even so late as 1677, a work was published by an eminent divine in this city, entitled, "A Brief Guide in the Smallpox and Measles." It was the first medical work which was published in America, and it is not yet 150 years since.

Within, however, this century and a half, many physicians have appeared among us who would have done honor to the Profession, in any country. Most have been educated in Europe; many, at home; and a few, almost shut out from the common avenues to knowledge, have brought to the profession a commanding genius, which rises, in spite of every obstacle, to eminence and usefulness. The names of Lloyd, Boylton, and Warren, of Shippen, Cadwallader, Rush and Wistar, Hamilton, McLane, Currie, Robinson, Scciary, Ramsey, and fifty others, should be better known than they now are to the medical practitioners who are scattered over our land; and not their names only, but their characters should be remembered, and their opinions on important subjects relating to practice. The improvements they have made in the ideas of their predecessors, should be passed to their credit; their progenitors should share the fame they have labored to acquire as well for their children as themselves. The profession should enjoy the benefit of such examples to teach them the honor, and the love, and the gratitude, which attach to the skilful and indefatigable physicians, as great and as sure as the disgrace which we see daily springing in full strength, professional stupidity, negligence and presumption.

Few men are willing, and still fewer have the ability to undergo the labour of study, and research which are required in preparing a work such as we have alluded to, and it is peculiarly gratifying to find it undertaken by a gentleman of acknowledged talents and industry both as a medical practitioner and author. Dr Thacher's Digests is the standard and most popular work on the subjects it embraces; it is that which is placed, before any other, in the hands of medical students, and referred to constantly by the physician and apothecary. Of his Modern Practice, a second edition is already in preparation; and his work on Hydrophobia, although less known in this country than either of the others, is esteemed in England and in Scotland as a work of great merit and interest, embodying all that was known, at the time of its publication, of the nature of that terrible disease, and the most usual and successful modes hitherto adopted for its treatment.

For a work like the American Medical Biography, Dr Thacher seems even more peculiarly qualified, than for any he has yet produced. The age in which he has lived—the roll he acted in the medical department of the revolutionary army—his intimacy with the greatest, and best, and bravest men our country can boast of—the fund of information concerning eminent physicians which he must have collected whilst preparing for the press his Journal and the notes which accompany it—united to leisure, habits of industry, executive correspondence, and a pen well hallowed to public service, all tend to encourage the highest expectations of the success and value of the biography he is about composing.

We hope every one who has it in his power to furnish information which will facilitate the labors of Dr Thacher, will take some cheap and speedy method of communicating it. It is a duty we owe to ourselves—our profession—the author—and the memory of the distinguished subjects of his history.

DYSPEPSIA.

This complaint is becoming more fashionable among us than it has been for several years. Whether it is that the times have improved and men live better, or that the fear of the disease has induced them to live too abstemiously—whether it is that our constitutions, like certain vegetables, require transplanting to a warmer climate, or because we have not been blessed with late in the clear dry cold winter weather which in days of yore braced and hardened the physical organs of our fathers—whether indigestion is caused by any peculiar state of the atmosphere, and if any, what,—or whether in fine it is not a mere whim of the stomach, coming on without any cause at all, are questions which have called in requisition the talents and ingenuity of many and learned members of the faculty.

Equally various have been the sentiments of the most distinguished physicians respecting the nature of this troublesome disease; and the means for removing it have been, if possible, more numerous still.

With regard to this last subject we cannot but acquaint our medical friends who have not yet made use of the Oxyd of Bismuth in this complaint, that we have found from it more decided and more uniform advantage, than from any other medicine which has yet been proposed. The great benefit which has resulted from the administration of this remedy, has induced us to think it worth the while of our readers to make trial of the course recently proposed by the celebrated Dr Zink, of Switzerland. He considers that dyspepsia is independent of the age, or general health of the body, that it has no connection with the quality or quantity of food received into the stomach; that it is a mere want of action in that organ (similar to a suspension that sometimes occurs in matrix), and that the inconveniences which ordinarily result from this want of action, must be attributed to the circumstance that it allows the aliment to pass into the acetous fermentation, before it enters the pyloric orifice.

With these views Dr Zink proposes opium as the medicine best adapted to the cure of this complaint.

INFLUENA.

This troublesome complaint is prevailing to a very great extent in this city. It is more extensive, though not as severe as the epidemic of February last. Of the winter class of 115 medical students, 49 only are able to attend the lectures at the medical college, all the others being confined at home by the prevailing epidemic; and there is scarcely a family in which there is not one or more individuals barking and sneezing night and day. A few are confined to their beds, some to their chambers, but the great majority of the sick require only a comfortable seat by the side of a good fire, and some slight expectorant remedies.

The pain over the eyes, and sickness at the stomach seem to be a characteristic of this epidemic as a sure shot was of the one which prevailed last year. Gentle emetics are found useful in some cases, and leeches on the temples are almost indispensable.
SURGERY.

In comparison with the progress of other arts and sciences, the advances which have been made, of late years, in the art of Surgery, have been very rapid, and their results exceedingly important in the cause of humanity.

The celebrated Dr Mead died about seventy years ago: an opinion of his is received, by Lord Kenyon, in an action brought, by a Surgeon, for his fees, as recently as the fortieth year of George the Third.

Lord Kenyon, after observing, that, though professional men were entitled to a fair and liberal compensation for their assistance, said there are however certain claims, which they affect to set up, which if unreasonable or improper, it is the business of the jury to control, and this appears to be one of them. It has been said, that Surgeons and Physicians were on the same footing; if it is so, it is of modern introduction.

Dr Mead and Dr Conyers Middleton, early in the century, were of a different opinion, hardly ranking Surgeons as a liberal profession, and considering Physicians, in a very different point of view.

In this case, Lord Kenyon stated, that a Physician could not maintain an action for his fees, because they were quidem honorarium; but that a Surgeon might, and surely on the same principle, which enables the labourer to recover his wages, for the sweat of his brow.

Such was the humble condition of this honorable profession, in the fortieth year of the reign of George the Third.

It is curious to observe the early progress of this art, which now enrolls, among its Professors, names of imperishable renown. In the thirty-second year of Henry 8th, the Barbers and Surgeons of London were incorporated, and made one company, with four masters, two expert in Surgery, and two in "Barbery;" and barbers, by this statute, were forbidden, under penalty, to practise Surgery, except in certain cases; and Surgeons, under a like penalty, were prohibited from shaving for life, or practising any other part of the sister art of Barbery.

This act remained in force until the 18th. year of George the Second, when it was found convenient to dissolve this singular copartnership; but the act of separation carefully secures to each its peculiar privileges and rights. From that time to the present, the art of Surgery has been advancing by rapid strides, to its present height. When the condition of this science was weighed out and given him, and he left the store, not, however, before he had exhibited some alarming symptoms of combustion to the surgeon, but lastly by inserting a small piece of wood under the skin.

To Correspondents.—P. will accept our thanks for his favor.—The case of extirpation of the testes by Dr Beall, of Prince Geo. Co., Md. shall appear soon.—An ingenious and neatly printed pamphlet on Homoeopathy, by H. R. Grant, is published, and may be found in the Philosophical Transactions, near the above periods, and a short account is given in Rees' Cyclopaedia, under the article Surgeons, of this patient, that persons may be now living at Coventry who may remember the case of the woman that was burnt there.

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VARIETIES.

Examiner.—A few days since, one of the steam and pepper-thrappers of Thompson, of this town, sent his cat to the veterinary surgeon, and ascertained the price of an ounce of aqua fortis. The merchant mentioned the price per pound, but demanded a greater proportion for an ounce, as it was "troublesome to weigh out such a small quantity," and with a danger of "biting the fingers." " Burning the fingers! interrupted the quack—nothing but ignorance makes you think so; a terrible idea these learned doctors have given you; the whole business was mischievous, and had been received by the merchant, you shall have enough to wash your hands and an ounce of aqua fortis into the bargain." The prospect of such immense gain overcame the scruples of the quack (if he had any) and he assented to the proposal. A bottle of aqua fortis was taken down and poured bountifully on his hands. He rubbed them and held them up to the light to dry, as he cautiously expressed it. The cat, however, was at that moment in a fit of convulsions, and the condition was ill.

Speech Restored by a Pill.—A soldier, who was on duty as a sentinel at Cassel, seeing a superior officer, endeavored to address him, but the entire loss of his voice at the same instant. All proper means were employed to relieve him; the commander himself, being interested in the fate of the patient, did not lose sight of the case for a long time, but without success. At last, the soldier having obtained his discharge, went one day, with some peasants of his village, into a neighboring forest to cut wood. In trying to pull down a branch of a tree, which yielded too much strength, he was overcome, and found that his hand was but a fraction of a hair's breadth from the heart of his comrade. His care was so complete, that he returned to Cassel, and re-entered the service.

Vapor Bath.—Last week, in the House of Representa-
tives, a bill granting to Amos Binney and others, a monopoly of the Vapor Bath invented by A. and B. was read once. After an inquiry by Mr Lincoln, of Worcester, as to the object of the proposed corporation, and the expression of his opinion that its legitimate object might as well be executed without an act as with one, the bill was denied a second reading.

OP DISSENTERY.—In this disease, says Dr Bailie, opiate and astringent medicines have sometimes appeared to me to be administered too early. Mild purgative medicines (of which I think castor-oil, upon the whole, the best) should be administered till the alvine evacuations have become free from mucus and blood, and have then, in a consideration of the quiescence of a natural fluid motion. Astringent medicines with opium, may then be directed with much advantage. As there is always an inflammatory condition of the bowels in this disease, leeches may be applied to the lumbar region; and in a high fever, the vigorous use of laudano may be justified by the opinion of the distinguished physician, that this remedy has produced wonderful results in high fever.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.—Dr Toill has recently discovered a kind of oil in the human blood, which is highly inflammable; this oil is chiefly observed in the blood of persons who have been addicted to drinking and other excesses. It is probable this discovery may tend to elucidate the hitherto inexplicable phenomenon of the spontaneous combustion of living human bodies. Instances of this spontaneous combustion are too numerous and well attested to leave any doubt of the fact. In most of the instances, a great part of the body had disappeared entirely, leaving other parts, particularly the head and fingers, unconsumed, and the walls and furniture penetrated or covered with a fine moisture. The best attested instances of this phenomenon, (England) are those of Grace Pett, a female, at Norwich, in 1744, and a woman of the name of Crew, at Coventry, 1776. They were both immediately addicted to the drinking of spirits, and one or both of them has been recognized by the physicians that persons may be now living at Coventry who may remember the case of the woman that was burnt there.

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WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending February 2. from the Health-Office Returns. January 27.—Elizabeth Woodward, 52. 28th.—George S. Conn, 1; John Burgess, jr, 4; Clarissa Green; Lawrence Stearns, 50. 29th.—James Morgan, 46; Betsey Hill, 56; Henry Irving, 3 to; Child of F. B. Thompson, 1; Geo. A. Thompson, 1; Mark Willard, 50; William H. Mandell, 8; Francis Eaton, 11; Mary Litchfield, 6; Harrison Stearns, 2; 30th.—Martin Munson, 56; Mehitabel Wells, 41; John Forbes, 45; Isaac Gray, 11; Nathan Bluell, 18; John Richardson, 29; Child of Ada Bent, 2d.—Jane K. Andrews, 56; 3d.—Nathaniel Doak, 55; James Broomfield.

CONSUMPTION, 2—Dropy in the Head, 2—Frozen, 1

Inflammatory Fever, 1—Long Fevers, 1—Quinsy, 1

Diseases of the Nervous System, 1—Diphtheria, 1

Inflammation of the Lungs, 1—Intemperance, 1

Stilborn, 1—City Poor, 1.
OBSERVATIONS.

INFLAMMATION.

(Continued from page 150."

Redness.—It is conceived, and correctly so, that the red color of the animal body is ascribable altogether to the blood it contains. An increase of redness, in a part, is then as the augmented quantity of blood.

For any part to receive and contain an augmentation of blood, there must be a previous enlargement of capacity in the containing vessels; the vessels are always full during health. Then, in inflammation, the vessel is enlarged in the ratio of its capacity to admit more blood. But, by what means are vessels enlarged in their capacities?

Vessels may be enlarged in two ways. They may be enlarged by growth, under the natural process of the body. But in inflammation, proportionally to the intensity of the malady, the vessels are interrupted or suspended. It would therefore be illogical to contend, that in inflammation the diameters of the vessels are augmented by a natural process. Not only so, but much time would be required for vessels to enlarge by natural growth. Mr. John Hunter, writing on this subject, remarks, "We must suppose its action in the parts, to produce an increase of size to answer particular purposes; and this I should call the action of dilatation, as we see the uterus increase in size in the time of uterine gestation, as well as the os tinea in the time of labor."  

The increase of size in the uterus during the time of gestation, and evolution of the os tinea in the time of labor, are operations of nature; effected by the laws of the parts; necessary to important purposes; and, without which, the scheme of nature, as regards man, would fall into complete ruin; and the human race be determined and ended.

If we are to attach any significance to the extract from Mr. Hunter, it must be, that inflammation is equally within the laws of the healthy economy, and equally necessary to answer particular purposes of the animal system, as pregnancy and child-birth. He has referred us to the action in the uterus and the os tinea, as an illustration by analogy of his principles of propagation.

Mr. John Hunter may, in his own estimation, have comprehended how, and to what extent, the laws of disease, which destroy the life, and break up the organization of living parts, and the laws necessary to the healthy purpose of the animal economy, may be mutually illustrative of each other, but I confess my understanding to be wholly inadequate to trace out the parallel.

As it is inadmissible, that this acknowledged increase of capacity in the vessels inflamed, should be considered as ascribable to natural growth, or to an "action of dilatation," founded on a provision in the part for particular purposes, may we not consider it as resulting from a condition of weakness, superinduced by some agency unfriendly and injurious to the life of the part, and of consequence adequate to a reduction of the tone of the coats of the vessels, which tone is dependent on the living energy of the part? The life in the part being lowered, the coats of the vessels become less able to resist the impulse of the circulating mass urged on by the heart. The consequence will be an enlargement of the diameter; a less vigorous and complete recovery of the artery, and an accumulation of blood in the vessels affected.

That the vessels are enlarged in their lumen, there can be no doubt—and that this enlargement is morbid is a necessary fact, otherwise inflammation is not disease, but health, and we are permitted to speculate at large in the unintelligible nonsense of healthy inflammation, and inflammatory health, unrestrained by sober science, and beyond the adumbrations of common prudence.

To the opinion of Mr. John Hunter, that there is an increase of size in the inflamed vessels, I would add the admission of Dr. Fowler, by far the most learned and able antagonist that ever advocated the indefensible doctrine of increased action of inflamed vessels.

This enlightened man, in his respectable Treatise, admits "it to be moreover very probable, that the redness, at least in a great part, is owing to the colorless arteries being distended with red blood." Although he uses the words "debebit vasis lymphatics," it is very certain he would not contend that the absorbents, or lymphatics, strictly so called, can by any means, except by extravasation, be either turgid or even filled with red blood. He obviously, and necessarily means, the colorless arteries in which the inflammation must always commence. And by himself we have explained how it is, that these natural colorless vessels become so as to admit the red blood. He asserts, "that the arteries, when inflamed, are weaker than when in a healthy state." And thus it is, that a grosser fluid permeates them. The reader will recollect the accumulation of the colorless vessels of the tunica annalis of the eye.

The admission of the fact is all that is required. The conclusion is inevitable and necessary, if the vessels be so affected by inflammation as to be lowered in their tone, and become turgid from the accumulation of red blood, it is clear that the phenomena of redness is, by Fowler himself, demonstrated to be consecutive of weakness. It is perfectly immaterial, in the discussion of the point before us, whether this weakness be innate in the vessels themselves, or whether it be relative to the general force of the heart and great arteries. But I would contend, with Dr. Fowler, that the vessels are absolutely weaker during inflammation than in health.

In addition to the admissions on the part of Hunter and Fowler, I might avail myself of the general fact that, when parts have been inflamed, and in a short time thereafter have been operated on, the surgeon has had to tie more vessels than when he has operated on the same parts under different circumstances.

This opinion, that the condition of inflamed vessels is that of weakness, was probably first suggested by Dr. Kirkland, in his valuable work on medical surgery, and was afterwards advocated, and thrown into the form of a general principle, by Mr. Allen and Dr. Lubbock. The opinions of Mr. Allen and Dr. Lubbock, have been referred to by Dr. Wilson, in his excellent publication on febrile diseases, who, I believe, is the first writer that has ever appeared before the public, in defence of the doctrine for which I now contend, in its principle, and which, I presume myself, only requires to be understood, to be published and universally received.

In page 9, Mr. Hunter again remarks that: "This increase of red appears to arise from two causes: the first, the increase of the vessels, or the second is owing, probably, to new vessels being set up in the extracutaneous, vividating, agglutinating lymph.

In the opinion of men of professional observation, there is no inflammation, produced by whatever cause, in which the red color is more complete, than in such as are produced by heated bodies, and such as are erysipelaceous. Those inflammations assume the red color in a few minutes, or hours at least. Would Mr. Hunter contend, that new vessels are set up for themselves in the space of a few hours? have a circulation of their own; hearts proper to themselves; can connect themselves with the old circulating vessels, by instinct, or by thought, or by good fortune!

That red blood can be made otherwise than by circulation; that a circulation can be kept up in these young factories, without a heart, I would deny; and I would further contend, that medical record, faithful and admissible, does not furnish a solitary instance of effused lymph producing Hunter's vessels.

When the inflammation shall have ceased, and the parts have restored to their original healthy condition, what becomes of those new factories of organization; those new establishments of blood-vessels? Do the greedy absorbents feed upon, and consume them to the last vestige, so that not a morsel is to be found, by the most diligent search of the keenest sense, whereby to regulate the delicate palate of a fastidious philosophy? Some men, trusting to the easy credulity of their readers, must certainly consider themselves privileged to write anything, provided it be above or below the understandings of others.

Dr. Caldwell, who by a series of experiments has sedulously labored to fortify the conclusions of Mr. John Hunter, as to the intrinsic vitality of the blood, informs us that "in the summer of the year 1800, he was obliged to submit to the extraction of a tooth from his lower jaw. The
hemorrhage from the lacerated vessels, though not very copious, proved tedious and troublesome. Various expedients were devised to suppress it, without effect. It at length occurred to him, that if the blood were allowed to fill up the oedemata, and remained there, by pressure, till consolidation should take place, the thrombus would be finally close to the mouths of the divided vessels. The experiment was made and succeeded in his wishes. The hemorrhage, which had continued nearly three days and nights, was now at an end; and as the coagulated blood proved neither inconvenient nor disagreeable, it was suffered to remain in the socket of the jaw. The weather being warm he examined it carefully, several times a-day, lest it might become putrid and offensive.—But instead of this, he observed it, on the fourth or fifth day after consolidation, beginning to assume the appearance of flesh. Nor did this incarceration commence at the circumference, but in the centre of the couguals, at the greatest possible distance from any vessels that might, by elongation, have been protruded from the adjacent gums. From this central point the process continued to extend, till what had been at first nothing but congealed blood, became a piece of perfect flesh, similar in texture and appearance to that of the gums."

The above asserted fact is bottomed, I presume, upon the broad basis of human credibility. It is entitled to our attention for many reasons.

It is, in the first place, solitary of its kind. Similar occurrences are not to be met with in the records of human experience; although the Experimenter, at the close of his paragraph remarks, that "he suspects this to be a very frequent occurrence after the extraction of teeth." But I am not disposed to permit an Experimenter to reason from what he suspects may have been; he must be restricted to what has been, and has received, moreover, the support of observation.

It is solitary of its kind, inasmuch, as in the space of from three to five days, it emitted nothing offensive; it did not, even upon its surface, become putrid. This is the only instance of a clot of blood remaining in the mouth, for four or five days, that did not become in some measure offensive, and, I am pretty confident, never be deprived of its claim by any parallel, except it be in the vigilant and careful observations and experience of the gentleman who is the subject of the present case.

Again, it is singular of its kind from its transparency. All other clots of blood have been observed to be opaque, so far as experience has extended, or will extend. The Experimenter does not assert it to be transparent, it is true. But its transparency is a thing of necessary consequence. If it were not transparent, in what manner did his eye, of itself, or aided by glasses, discover that the incarceration commenced at the centre, from the greatest possible distance from the circumference? And, "that the process regularly extended from the centre," he declares. The Experimenter does not claim the dexterity of injecting and dissecting this vascular organized plug, which resembled a piece of flesh engraved.

I again assert, without the least fear of being contradicted, that this clot must have been transparent, or the Experimenter could not have discovered what was going on in its centre, any more than I could discover what operations may be going on in the centre of the moon. As the incarceration commenced in the centre, it could not have fairly and successfully been made a subject of injection and dissection, even if hands, light and careful enough, could have been found to engage in the experiment. Not only must it have been transparent from the superior surface to the centre, but also from the centre, downward to the level of the alveolar bone; otherwise some small veins, vessels might have unperceived crept along towards the centre from below, and even a vigilant eye may have been deceived. But the Experimenter asserts the central incarceration to be a "fact"!

Dr Dorsey, in his Elements of Surgery, admonishes the reader. "On this subject" the proximate cause of inflammation, "to see Hunter on the blood, &c. And also Dr Wilson's Essays, on Febrile Diseases, in which the doctrines of Mr Hunter are ingeniously, though I think," says the Doctor, "unsuccessfully opposed."

"In this admonition we have an opinion. But how much disposed soberer I may be to respect the opinion of the learned author, I cannot help recollecting, that in the estimation of all logicans, the distance between an opinion and an argument is immeasurable; and that a gentleman who attempts to settle a point in science, by telling us 'he thanks' his opponent to be wrong, occupies a space in philosophical contest, which can neither be conceived nor measured. But, by way of securing regard to an opinion in a subsequent, we are furnished with a probability in a previous note."

"The heat and redness, are probably owing to the increased rapidity of the circulation; but in what particular manner, is not clearly understood."—Page 4, vol. 1.

It has already been shown that an increase of circulation, dependent on a more frequent action of the blood-vessels cannot possibly take place. And I hope with equal certainty it appears, that the most proper method of operating through any set of vessels, from a more complete and forcible contraction of these vessels, the part must become less red, if the redness arise from the presence of blood. Hence we are not astonished to find some difficulty experienced, as to the manner in which the increase of redness could occur from the blood going more rapidly through, or from increased action of the part.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS OF THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM.

INFLAMMATION OF THE INTERNAL EAR.

Inflammation of the internal ear sometimes spreads to the membranes of the brain and even to the brain itself, occasioning inflammation in both these parts. This affection most frequently arises from inflammation of the faucæ, extending itself along the eustachian tube into the external ear, which is most liable to happen in such cases of scarlet fever, maligna, or morbus bulgaricus, and the feverish, consumptive or croupous throat, but the inflammation occasionally commences in the lining of the external ear, and finally, from that quarter, invades the internal one, and ultimately reaches the brain. In such cases, the skin and mucous membrane of the internal canal are cut off from the external, and, by consequence, the inflammation puts on an ill-conditioned character; the petrous portion of the temporal bone becomes ca}

rionous, the dura mater is at length affected, and finally the brain. If such cases be undeter
the rupture took place extensively in the cerebellum, and then, he believed, that the death was almost always very sudden. But Dr A. dwells at some length on the necessity of preventing the attack in those cases where the third or half of the brain announces its approach; for this purpose he recommends bloodletting, purgatives, and a strictly abstemious diet, and he speaks particularly of the efficacy of the last, and of the great utility of the abstraction of all diffuse stimuli.

GYMNASTIC EXERCISE.

Some time ago we received a communication making suggestions on the subject of gymnastics. Our correspondent’s reasons for introducing this species of exercise into the system of physical education are entitled to much weight.—The universal adoption of the gymnasium, with the more extensive and habitual use of baths hot and cold, would make a large deduction from deaths in early life, and would save many beautiful and interesting beings from the ravages of consumption. Our school boys would not bear the livid lip, and show the pale countenance which so often mark the successful competitor for school honors. Our young men would not be driving around town and foraging the country for health, and too often vicious pleasures, were manly amusements, the spirit-stirring games of the gymnasm, introduced and allowed to take up a part of their leisure time. Our rich merchants, our learned lawyers and pale students, would not so frequently have occasion to travel southward in vain search of the rosy-lipped goddess, Health. Dyspepsia would soon be unknown, nervousness really go out of fashion, and the whole system of stamping, suffocating vepors, and stifling intussusceptions, would soon be forgotten.

The Romans, who were a nation of warriors and conquerors, used no physic; they employed the baths, the gymnastic games, and the pure air of Italy, to renovate the debauched and to sustain the sinking frame of old age.

An unfortunate youth was presented to Mr. Cialli, Professor of Gymnastics, in Bologna, by several of his pupils, who requested the favor of his being admitted into his academy. On admission his strength was ascertained by the dynamometer. The pressure of his hands nearly equal to the effort of children of seven or eight years. His power of drawing, of raising his body, of jumping and leaping were scarcely perceptible. With very great difficulty, he would run the distance of one hundred steps in one minute and two seconds, after which he had not strength enough to stand. A weight of fifteen pounds held in his hand would make him stagger, and a child of seven years could throw him down with the greatest ease. After he had been five months subjected to the gymnastic training, the pressing force of his hands was fifty pounds; with his arms he could raise himself three inches from the ground, and remain suspended three seconds; he leaped three feet in length, ran 163 steps in a minute, carrying a weight of thirty-five pounds on his shoulders. Finally, in 1817, he climbed in the presence of several thousand spectators, to the top of an intersected castle of twelve feet in height; he performed the same on a slippery mast, leaped six feet in length, and ran five hundred paces in two minutes and an half. He now walks five leagues without inconvenience; and after a frightful illness, his exercises have given him a comfortably-shape of plumaceous; and confirmed health has followed his valetudinary state.

DR SEWALL’S LECTURE.

This Lecture was delivered at the opening of the Medical Department of the Columbian College, in the District of Columbia, March 30, 1823, by THOMAS SEWALL, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in that institution: and a few publications of the kind appear to us so well adapted to their object and occasion. It contains much of what we all feel interested in knowing—such as the history of medicine in America—as well as a particular account of the views with which the Medical School at Washington was got up. We are among those who are decidedly of opinion that there is no greater evil threatening the profession than the multiplication of medical schools. If all the patronage which can be given to such institutions were bestowed on a few, these few might extend the means of communicating medical knowledge, till the instruction offered the medical student in them would equal, and perhaps surpass, that we are now compelled to seek on the other side the Atlantic. But as it is, the American pupil can find at the schools in his native country, but the pauper privilege of attending a few dull lectures which were written from ten to twenty years ago, and at certainly not more than three or four of them the additional advantage of visiting a single hospital.

In all England there is but one medical school; one in Ireland; in Scotland two (for that at Aberdeen scarcely deserves the name); and in all France but three. In the United States there are already three, and scarcely a month but we hear of the establishment of a new one. Now the consequence is evident—that no one of them can afford to furnish the student those means of instruction which the nature and immense responsibilities of the profession require. Three schools would be ample in this country—one in the southern, one in the middle, and one in the eastern states. We were therefore sorry to hear that a plan was in agitation of attaching one to Columbia College, though we cannot help complimenting the style in which our author has apologized for this step.

The school, however, being established, and the professors having their habits with regard to the pupils to form, we beg leave to suggest to them the propriety of adopting a custom which adds much to the popularity and usefulness of foreign institutions, and which is totally disregarded in this country. It is a chief object of European professors to cultivate the personal acquaintance of the most intelligent students; to introduce them to their medical friends and scientific circles, and thus afford them, not only a gratification which a young man never forgets, but a great deal more information than can be obtained from public teachings, and that too of a character which is more useful in private practice, and in a manner which stamps it indelibly on the mind. In this country, some of the professors make it a practice to ask all the students attending their course to pass one evening with them during the winter, and they are regularly treated with as much fruit and wine as they have courage to take, and perhaps with the looking over of some anatomical plates;—very like a small fashionable party, only substituting pictures of the heart and liver for fine portraits and amusing caricatures; and that is all there is in medical or scientific or instructive brought forward. It is modifying to be present at one of these professional levees, and see how little interest the host takes in his guests, and how evidently he wishes for the clock to announce the hour of departure. At about ten o’clock the students generally return to their homes, boasting, perhaps, that they have passed an evening with Professor ———, but at the same time swearing in their hearts that they will never again expose themselves to such mortification. This is the sum total of all the civility extended by the professors to their pupils. The stupid drone, whose highest ambition is to obtain a license, and the intelligent youth, who would delight in the society of those from whom he might gather the improvements of the day, and with whom he might indulge in conversation on subjects of science, are alike looked down upon, and treated with indifference and neglect.

If the government of Columbia College wish to make their pupils take an interest in them and their institution, they must first show that they are desirous not only of receiving their fees, but of communicating knowledge—not of showing as few attentions to the pupils as they can in common decency, but of cultivating their friendship: and it should not be a semblance only—they should in reality take a deep interest in the society of those on whose future reputation, that of their college must essentially depend. At the capital of this great nation, where many of the most learned and distinguished men in our country annually convene, peculiar facilities seem to be offered for young men of talents and zeal to become acquainted, through the influence of their instructors, with great men, and among whom our society gives a thousand advantages to a young physician; it enlarges his mind; makes him acquainted with the character of the profession in different parts of the country; teaches him to think for himself, to support his own opinions by proper arguments; excites his ambition to acquire the professional information which is necessary to do himself credit amid the thousand inquiries of the intelligent and the curious; and affords him an opportunity of establishing himself at last in a part of the country where his services are most wanted, and under the auspices of men whose society will be always valuable, and whose influence will ensure him success.

With all these facilities, we cannot but hope our suggestion will not be disregarded, and that this new institution will present the first example in America, of a medical school exercising a liberal and disinterested policy towards its pupils.

The Introductory Lecture of Dr Sewall promises well. It is certainly the best and most comprehensive history of medicine in this country which has yet been published, and no physician should be without it. In an appendix, Dr. S. gives a sketch of the lives of some of our most distinguished practitioners since the first settlement of the country, and many other facts relating to the profession, which are exceedingly interesting and useful.

REPORTS.

EXPIRATION OF THE TESTIS.

Communicated for the Medical Intelligencer.

BY JOSEPH R. STEVENS, M. D.

A strong, and otherwise healthy negro, aged about 49 years, having exposed himself to the poison of sympath, the right testis became swelled. The scrotum of the same side contracted, stung, and left both the indurated testis perfectly bare. While in the same condition it was given, on the 29th of August, the right testis was removed. The testicle was submitted to be examined, as it was supposed to be one of the rare cases of the condition in testis, about which the recent communication submitted. As far as I could trace the legends of ancient...
extirpation the only step that could save him. Then considering the advice given by some able surgical writers, never to operate when we find the chord enlarged and hard above, when we should divide it, I was at a stand. But remembering that some, equally able and successful, had told us that this should not always deter us, I concluded to perform the operation.

I therefore proceeded in the ordinary way. After the operation, I placed the patient under a mercurial course; in a few weeks he recovered his former health and strength, and is now laboring daily for a support. I give this case to show that an indurated chord should not prevent us from operating.

For the Medical Intelligence.

CASE OF DIETETIC IRREGULARITY.

On the 4th of Dec. 1815, Mr. Obadiah Littlefield, then living in the town of Starks, County of Somerset, Me., from the falling of a tree received an injury in the back; though not sufficient to paralyze the lower extremities, and also fractured the tibia and fibula about four inches from their superior extremity. — From this time, to April following, he was confined to his bed, and not able to walk. The child, when scarcely able to be exercised with strict to an unusual degree, drinking 18 quarts of cold water per day, and eating a moderate quantity of bread and milk; he took no other nourishment, till the first of the next September, when he was seized with a fever, and for twenty-seven days, he received no support except what he drank of cold water; and during this time not the least of fevers was eliminated per rectum; but was able to void his urine in small quantities. — In October, when his fever had left him, he began to call for crackers softened in milk and water, and for 3 weeks he lived upon them alone; when he began to call for fresh meat, and soon would eat at one meal the astonishing quantity of a quarter of lamb, and at the same time three pounds of cheese, and as much bread, continualy exclaiming in a clamorous manner, "you have given me but a taste, and you will starve me." — In this manner he passed the winter and part of the spring, till the commencement of warm weather, when he quitted all animal food, and called for gruel made very thin, and drank the enormous quantity of eight gallons a day.

This course he continued through the warm part of the season, when he began to crave animal food again, in quantities as stated above, with the addition of sweetened water, of which he usually drank twenty-four quarts in the course of the day.

This was his constant course, winter and summer, till within about 3 years of his death, when he changed his dietetic irregularities, to meat and potatoes, without any thing else, except sweetened water, which he continued till within a few days of his death. For some of the last years of his life, he would have neither a light nor fire in his room, saying it was injurious to his eyes. During his whole sickness, which was a few days more than ten years, he was unable to render the least assistance in taking care of himself.

His intellectual faculties during this time, appeared strong and regular; as when enjoying a good state of health.

Often in his illness did he express a strong desire, that after death, his body might be examined for the satisfaction, information, and benefit of the living. — About four months after he first received his injury, he was removed to New-Gloucester, County of Cumberland, Me., where he lived till the 15th day of Dec. 1825, when he died, aged about sixty.

The appearances on examination, were as follows: On opening the chest, the lungs, pleurae, mesenteric, pericardium, &c, were of as healthy appearances, as could have been expected for a man of his age. — The abdominal viscera were much diseased; the liver was smaller than natural, of a very dark color, and hard. The gall bladder was enlarged to three or four times its natural size, containing a fluid of a bright yellow color. — The stomach appeared natural; the pancreas, but a small part of it remaining. — The spleen not more than usual, for sometimes it produces the greatest benefit. — The kidneys, mostly absorbed. — The omentum scarcely visible — the kidneys much diseased; these were the appearances, most essentially unnatural, excepting that he was emaciated to the utmost extremity. — However incredible the statements in the above case may appear, they may be verified with sufficient and satisfactory evidence, and likewise, many other irregularities might be mentioned equally universal.

M. F.

VARIES.

INFLAMMATION OF THE PERITONITIS. — Where this disease has not been connected with any peculiarity of season, or any epidemic complaint, I have found it to be cured by bleeding and purging, like other inflammations. Upon the whole, however, I think it has been more relieved by repeated applications of leeches, than by general bleeding. I do not wish to be understood that general bleeding is of no advantage in peritonitis, for sometimes it produces the greatest benefit. I think, however, that, in most cases, more benefit will be derived from the repeated applications of leeches, according to circumstances, than from a repetition of the general bleeding. The purgative medicines which may be used are to be used of the most value, are calomel and the neutral salts.

SINGULAR COMMERCE. — Mr. Brooks, an anatomical teacher in London, has in consequence of the great scarcity and high price of subjects in London, formed a regular contract with the hospital physicians of Paris, to supply him with as many bodies as he may require for his pupils. He pays the customs for each one furnished him, a price very advantageous to both parties, as bodies are worth, in Paris, five francs each, and in London, fourteen or fifteen pounds sterling. The only condition they make, under the above arrangement, importing subjects for anatomical studies, smuggling might be carried on extensively; but upon the representation and promise of Mr. Brooks, that all cases with this appearance should be kept in the custom house, the government consented to allow him to engage in his new branch of commerce duty free.

HYDROSPORA. — Mr. Hewitt relates five cases of hydrospora, produced by the bite of a jackal, one of which was saved by effecting salivation, whilst the other two had scarcely any opportunity for receiving medicine; but he also notices a case, reported by a writer, which this writer seems to entertain that local irritating applications to the mouth will have an effect in hastening salivation, e. g. the administration of volatile anes, and discharge from the salivary glands, a mixture of aqua ammoniac, ol. vina, and aqu. pur., in the usual proportions to form a strong stimulating expectorant, ordered to be given by teaspoonfuls full, which, it appears, was effected.

MEDICAL.

According to Dr. Darwin, the circumstances which render confinement necessary are, the human being being liable to injure others, or himself, on account of his own affairs, and if none of these circumstances exist, there should be no confinement; for he remarks, that the mistaken idea continues to exist, yet if no actions be produced in consequence, the theorist cannot be called insane, but only delirious: and he adds, that very one who is mistaken, or who puts false estimates on things, were liable to confinement, he does not know of his reasoner might not tremble at the sight of a madhouse.

DR. BECKER'S PILLS. — We have lately been trying Becker's pills in dropsy, and with considerable success.

In one instance of long standing they reduced the swellings, by the use of the pill, when we had been still more so.

The care of the patient's blood, was perhaps less essential when we had been still more so.

We have suspected much difference in the preparation of the drug—Lond. Med. Repository.

CASE OF CAROTID ANEURISM. — The operation of tying an artery for aneurism on the latter side from the common point, is applicable as to cases where the common operation could not be performed. It has, according to Mr. Warlop, been successfully performed, once by Sir A. Cooper, and each time successfully. The account of this case by Mr. Warlop is highly interesting and important.

PETROLEUM — or mineral oil, is found in various parts of the earth, and in the vicinity of beds of coal; also from limestone rocks. It is used in the place of oil for lighting houses, streets and churches.

ARGOLITE. — Mr. Rose, of Berlin, has separated well-marked crystals of angle, (p. 109 of Haury's Mineralogy, from a large specimen of the Javemos aerolite, appearing to contain crystals of felspar with soda, f. c. whiten but also with the calcine of the oil, and felspar of the corundum perfectly crystallized; and the trachyte of the Andes mixed with angle and albite.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending February 9; from the Health-Office Returns.

February 4.—Caroline C. Brinley, 19; Elizabeth Andrews, 59. 5th.—Child of Henry Johnson, 2 days. 6th.—Child of E. Bell, 22; Child of Michael Grace, 8th. — Susannah Mayhew, 75; Eliza Ann Smith, 17. 9th. —Isabella Exhander 14 m.o.; Asa Payson, 54.

Disorder of the Head, 1—Tetrapy Fevers, 1—Pulmonary of the Fever, 1—Stillborn, 1—Old Age, 1—Constitution, 2—Worms, 1.

Medical Books.

A CONCEPTUS OF PHARMACOPEIAS OF THE LONDON, EDINBURGH AND DUBLIN COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS, being a Practical Compendium of Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, by Anthony Toom Thomson, first American, from the first edition, with the additions of the U. States Pharmacopea, Nagel's Formulary and other new Pharmaceutical Preparations.

An Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery, by Thomas Denman, from the last London Edition, with notes by Dr. John W. Franks, of New-York.

A new Edition of Thomas' Practice, with an Appendix by Dr. David Hosack, of New-York; and a large assortment of other new and valuable Medical Books, constantly for sale by

HARRISON GRAY, No. 72, Washington St.
OBservations.

MR Lawrence's Lectures on the Eye.

The object of these lectures is to make you acquainted with the nature and treatment of diseases of the eye, including, under that expression, not only the globe itself, but the several auxiliary parts, called its appendages. The anatomy and physiology of the organs will be only considered shortly, and in reference to the practical part of the course.

It is necessary to enlarge on the importance of the subject, or to prove to you formally how indispensable it is that you should become acquainted with it. Every one feels that sight is the most valuable of our senses; that it is not only in itself, the most important inlet of knowledge,—the most indispensable medium of our communication with surrounding person and objects, but also that it is essential to the full enjoyment of our other senses,—to the freedom of almost all our other faculties and engagements, so that these latter lose more than half their value when sight is gone.

Hence blindness is one of the greatest calamities that befall human nature short of death: and many think that the termination of existence would be preferable to its continuance in the solitary, dependent, and imperfect state to which human life is reduced by the privation of this precious sense.

Loss of sight is the greatest misfortune even to the rich, who can alleviate it by purchasing the aid and services of others. How much more severely must it be felt by the poor, by the middle and lower classes of society. 4, by 49,500 of mankind, who, being rendered incapable of labor, and having their minds uncultivated, find their existence reduced to a dreary blank—dark, solitary and cheerless—burthensome to themselves and to those around them. Even our great poet, who might have been supposed to find every alleviation and resource that such an affliction admits of, in his highly-gifted mind, and the exhaustless stores of knowledge with which it was furnished, repeatedly reverts to his blindness, and always in a tone of anguish and dependence characteristic of recent misfortune:

"Thus with the year
Seasons return; but not to me returns
Day, or the sweet approach of eve or morn,
Or sight of venial bloom, or summer's rose.
Or globs, or hues or human face divine;
But cloud instead, and ever-during dark
Surround me, from the cheerful ways of men
Cut off, and for the book of knowledge fair
Prepared with an universal blank.
Of Nature's works, to me expunged and rased,
And wisdom at once entrance quite shut out."

It often depends on the surgeon whether the patient shall retain or lose, recover or remain benefit of vision.

Common external inflammation of the eye, if neglected or improperly treated, by rendering the transparent posterior portion of the organ more or less opaque, proportionately injures vision; inflammation of the iris, when unchecked, causes contraction of the pupil and deposition of lymph in the aperture, which prevents the passage of light into the eye.

Affection of the nervous structure, if not arrested in its beginning, terminates inevitably in diminution or loss of sight; and these distressing results are too often advanced by some plans of treatment, which have been pretty generally followed, and might plead the sanction of names that have enjoyed public confidence.

The success of operations for cataract, or artificial pupil, depends entirely on the knowledge, discrimination, and dexterity of the operator. Now, none of these are rare cases. They are matters of daily occurrence, and make up the bulk of ophthalmic practice.

The heavy responsibility, which this view of the subject unfolds, will compel every conscientious man to turn his most anxious attention to the affections of this delicate and important organ, and to embrace every opportunity of acquiring the knowledge, which will enable him to act scientifically and effectually on occasions of such momentous consequence.

If there are any whom the pleasure connected with the acquisition of knowledge—the satisfaction flowing from the consciousness of important duties rightly performed, and the gratitude so warmly expressed for the inestimable benefits of averting blindness, or restoring sight, should not prove an incentive sufficiently powerful to the study of ophthalmic medicine and surgery, their case must be deemed desperate; unless, indeed, their minds, insensible to higher feelings and nobler motives, should obey the impulse of self-interest and fear; unless they should be scared by the frightful prospect of disgrace and ruin, which ignorance and its inseparable blunders must entail.

The consequences of wrong treatment cannot be concealed here, as in the obscure affections of internal organs; the visible changes of structure are obvious to external observation, and the unfortunate individual whose sight is injured or destroyed by unskilful treatment, suffers as a lasting memorial of the incapacity and rashness to which he owes his misfortune. The study of diseases of the eye is therefore now justly regarded as an essential part of general medical education; but it is more particularly so to country practitioners, who are thrown entirely on their own resources; who cannot, as in the metropolis, and some large cities, call in the aid of superior talent and knowledge.

A country surgeon often gains much reputation by an operation on the eye, or a case of serious disease successfully managed. On the other hand, how much he is mortified if obliged to confess his ignorance; or, if he does not like that, with what fear and trembling must he undertake a case, when conscious that he is ignorant of the nature and treatment of the affection, and that he is constantly liable to commit some great blunder.

Admitting the importance of the subject, you will, perhaps, doubt whether or not it ought to be separated from the rest of surgery. You may probably inquire, Are not ophthalmic patients received into general Hospitals? and are not diseases of the eye included in general courses of surgery? Both questions may be answered in the affirmative. But the eye-cases in these Hospitals are few; and hence totally inadequate to the purposes of practical study; particularly for exemplifying the various operations. Thus these institutions have been altogether inefficient in reference to this important department of surgery.

As the general body of surgeons was ignorant of this branch, the public naturally resorted to oculists, who, seeing eye-cases in greater numbers, became better acquainted with the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment; and especially more skillful in the operative department.

At the same time, the subject being imperfectly understood, was shunted over and neglected in the general surgical courses. Perhaps two or three lectures have been devoted to ophthalmic diseases and operations; many important facts consequently have been entirely unnoticed, and the whole very inadequately explained.

Thus students, who resorted to London for the completion of their professional studies, had really no means of learning this important department of the profession, which was tacitly abandoned, even by the Hospital surgeons, and turned over to the oculists, who, not being conversant with the principles derived from anatomy, physiology, and general pathology, attended merely to the organ, and relied almost exclusively on what is really of very little importance—local treatment.

Hence ophthalmic surgery, being in a manner dismembered from the general science, was reduced to a very low ebb. Until within a very few years, it was in this country, at least, in a state of almost total darkness.

You may doubt whether the affections of the eye afford matter for a course of Lectures, and ask, if this single organ has a set of lectures appropriated to it, what will be required for the whole body? The eye, although small in bulk, is complicated in structure. It is made up of several distinct or dissimilar tissues, and it exhibits all the affections which each of these is liable. Although its component structures are for the most part analogous to what we meet with in other parts of the body, and consequently must be subject to morbid affections essentially similar to those occurring elsewhere, yet the office and form of the organ, the union of its component parts, and the nature of many of them, is so peculiar, as to give a strong character of individuality to its diseases. We do not, at first view, recognize in sections of the eye the same diseased processes with which we are familiar in other parts; we seem to be contemplating something peculiar and individual, and this more especially in the diseases of the peculiar tissues.

This individual and distinct character of ophthalmic diseases both accounts for their having been detached and considered as a separate branch of surgery, and, in conjunction with their number, justifies us in appropriating to them a
The course of proceeding necessary to be adopted in learning the diseases of the eye, must be the same as that for diseases in general. The art of healing, or medicine, taken in its most extensive sense, is founded on the sciences of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics. In other words, a knowledge of the healthy structure and function must be first obtained, and then a knowledge of diseased structure and function, and, lastly, a knowledge of the external agencies capable of influencing the body, so as to induce disease or restore health.

(Palys.)

Dr. Armstrong considers palys under three divisions,—first, as arising from an affection of the brain; secondly, as arising from an affection of the spinal cord; and thirdly, as arising from an affection of some particular nerve. When palsy arises from an affection of the brain, that affection may be various; sometimes it is softening from chronic inflammation, and then the palsy is preceded by pains, creeping, and numbness in the part; in short, the palsy then comes on gradually; whereas, when it arises from simple turgescence of the brain, it is preceded by signs similar to those which precede apoplexy, and the attack at last comes not gradually but suddenly.

The affection of the brain in either case is generally opposite to that side of the body which is affected, and when one side is affected, it is denominated hemiplegia. Dr. Armstrong notices one modification of palsy, which he has seen arise in cases of great exhaustion from the patient falling into syncope, on the recovery from which the tongue, or one side, is left paralyzed. He adds some cases of this kind, and cautious students allowing patients to get up again into the erect position, whenever they have then complained of dizziness, giddiness, sickness, or faintness. He has seen, he says, similar cases occur from patients having been retained too long in the erect position after copious losses of blood. This form of palsy is generally connected with an effusion within the head, and apparently arises from the collapse of the heart, the venous blood, meanwhile, being impeded in its return from the brain. Paraplegia, or an affection of one half of the body transversely, sometimes depends upon an affection of the brain, but it is more frequently the effect of softening of some portion of the spinal cord, and that again is the effect of chronic inflammation of that part. Chronic inflammatory affection of the spinal cord, or its membranes, may exist in the cervical, dorsal, or lumbar portion. It is denoted by pain in the part affected, by wandering pains and then numbness, or tingling, and often by a twitching through the muscles of the trunk, followed by loss of power in the upper or in the lower extremities, according to the seat of the chronic inflammation. An affection of the spinal column itself, which Bear has well described, and which arises commonly as a secondary affection of some disorder of the spine, generally attacks the bodies of the vertebra, so that in process of time a curve outward is the consequence, with weakness and at length loss of power in the upper or lower extremities, according to the affections to be found in the upper or lower portion of the spinal column. The partial palsy which arises from an affection of a particular nerve, is also various as to its origin, for sometimes the cause is a tumor in the course of a nerve, or some similar pressure, and sometimes it is simple inflammation of a nerve.

With respect to the treatment of palsy, it first consists in the prevention; secondly, in the removal; and thirdly, in the palliation. When palsy is preceded by chronic inflammation of the brain, or its membranes, the removal of that inflammation, before softening occurs, will prevent the effects which will be produced by simple turgescence of the brain, a similar plan will be equally successful. When the attack has once decidedly taken place, the recovery is always doubtful, where the head is concerned; but Dr. Armstrong has seen several cases in which patients have recovered the use of the affected limb by perseverance in an abstinent, occasional bleeding, local or general, and mild aperient medicines. When inflammation of the spinal cord precedes the seizure, the prevention depends upon the ordinary measures; and when the attack has occurred from that cause, still the treatment should be of a subdued antiphlogistic kind. But when the palsy depends upon a disease of the bones of the spinal column itself, then rest in the recumbent posture, a fresh atmosphere, a regulated diet, and an occasional gentle alternative and aperient, with perfect cleanliness, are the most efficacious remedies. The value of these is indisputable, whereas the use of caustic issues is doubtful, some having much, and others no faith in them at all. In truth, this affection being generally a secondary one of some iritation on the mucous surface of the prime vire, the cure depends more upon the removal of that, and upon taking off the weight of the trunk through rest, than upon any other means.

The partial palsy is to be relieved by the removal of its cause, only it is to be remembered, that partial palsy does not always depend upon a more local affection of a nerve, but is often the effect of some serious affection of the brain, of which it is a monitor not to be neglected for a moment in many cases. The history of it is always worthily investigated, by a reference to the physiology of the parts concerned, so that the cause may, if possible, be correctly ascertained, and a correspondent treatment pursued. No folly is greater than that of supposing the same name always implies the same conditions, for the symptoms on which that name is founded may be similar, yet the condition on which that symptom depends may have a different seat and character.

Dr. Armstrong notices, that paralytic affections from the brain are far more common among those who take wisdom and ardent spirits, than among those who drink nothing but water; yet he admits that many other remote occasions, and especially mental excitement, are connected with the origin of such complaints, which are therefore more common in large towns than in the country, where the mind is less agitated in the main.

DOCTORS' BILLS.

About four years ago, I was happily married to a very prudent lady, and being of the same disposition as myself, we made a very prudent couple. Some time after our marriage, my wife told me, that Doctors' bills were very high, and that, as we could not always expect to be free from disease, she thought it best to purchase some Doctors' books, and thus, said she, with a smile, "we can steal their trade at once."

This I agreed to, and made it my particular business to attend all auctions of books, in order to buy medical books at the lowest rate. In fine, in less than twelve months, I had a couple of Dispensatories, Buchan's Family Physici, &c. I purchased three treatises on the art of preserving health, by different authors; seven treatises on the diseases of children, and divers others of the greatest note. My wife spent all the time she could spare from the economy of her household, in studying them, and as soon as my store was shut up in the evening, I edified myself with a few receipts from my New London Dispensatory.

As soon as spring arrived, my dear wife informed me, that she found it positively enjoyable by some of our writers, that we must all be purged with cream of tartar and brimstone, to be taken every evening for three weeks, in doses; this the whole family had to comply with, first, I myself, who being head of the family I reckon first, my wife, my brother Dick, who lives with me, my son and my daughter, my negro boy, and the servant maid. This cure we all went through to the entire satisfaction of my wife, who had the pleasure to find her medicine produce the desired effect.

Soon after this, the contagion of reading medical books spread through all my family, and scarce a day passed, but some of them made use of some medicine or other. My poor brother Dick, after he had permission to read my books, had acquired a dejected countenance, the cause of which I could not conceive: at last he broke silence—"Brother," said he, (supposing I had read more than himself,) "I feel my pulse, I think I have too much blood; had I not better get bled? you know that if too much blood gets into the head it produces apoplexy — the symptoms of its appearance, says Buchan, is a remarkable thing in the face, and one that is exactly the case with me."

I could not but laugh at him; he was indeed red in the face, but such a redness as indicated the offspring of health. Our maid, from an education at a country school, had learned to read: she earnestly requested her mistress to lend her a Doctor book to read on a Sunday afternoon. This reasonable request was granted, but poor creature! being not of the fairest complexion in the world, she in a little
time became quite low spirited, and finding my wife and me alone one evening, she came in, and ventured to express herself thus: “Low, mistress, I am conserved and afraid I shall get the yellow jandrers, as I begin to look very yellow in the jaw.” Decency preserved my laughter for a while, but when she had left the room, I could not but enjoy a comfortable laugh. My negro boy is always eating roasted onions for his cold, but as he cannot read, he has luckily escaped every other disorder. One night as we were about going to bed, my wife desired me in the most serious manner, that if she should ever be taken with a locked jaw, that I should rub her jaw with musk, as she was convinced, from comparing the arguments of a variety of authors, that this was the best remedy. I told her there was no danger of such an event, as I had Dr. Colton’s word for it that it seldom attacked females—indeed I am convinced, that a lock-jawed lady is rara avis in terris.

Thither our family medicines were used with confidence and satisfaction on all sides, till I considered one day that our family without a Doctor, had consumed more medicine in one year, than my father’s family used to do with the advice of a physician in six years. But one day, when my wife told me she thought it would be well to weigh our food before we eat it, lest we should eat too much or too little, and that Sanctorius advised it for good reasons, I got such a disgust to our scheme that I resolved gradually to abandon it. I am now convinced of the truth of a saying of a rational medical writer, “That one or more of four things must happen to every human body—to live temperately, to use exercise, to take physic, or be sick.” And I am pretty certain, that if I and my family persevered in the two former courses, we need never be in danger of the two last.

For the Medical Intelligence.

REMARKS ON LEECHES.
BY W. ODEGAR, M.D.

Having devoted much attention to this subject, by which I was enabled to collect some ideas, I have been induced to offer them, confidently trusting they will not be unacceptable, or perhaps unconstructive; especially as the medicinal virtues of the leech are daily becoming more generally known, and their use more extensively diffused. There are several species, distinguished by their color; but that used for medical purposes is the Hirudo medicinalis, which grows to the length of two or three inches. The body is of a blackish brown color, marked on the back with six yellow spots, and edged with a yellow line on each side; but what is remarkable, both the spots and lines almost disappear in some seasons of the year. The head is smaller than the tail, which fixes itself to any surface, even the most polished, very firmly. It is viviparous, and produces but one young at a time, which is in July. It is an inhabitant of clear running waters. The leech’s head is armed with a sharp instrument, which makes three wounds at once. They are three sharp tubercles, strong enough to pierce the skin of an ox. The mouth is as it were the body of a pump, and the tongue or fleshy nipple the sucker: by the working of this piece of mechanism, the blood is made to rise up to the conduit, which conveys it to the animal’s stomach; this is a

membranous skin, divided into twenty four small cells. The blood which is sucked out, is preserved for several months, without coagulating, and proves a store of provender to the animal. The medicinal virtues of the leech are produced after digestion by other animals, need not in this to be disfigured from the heterogeneous substances; nor indeed is there an anus discoverable in the leech; mere transpiration seems to be all that it performs, the matter fixing on the surface of the body, and afterwards coming off in small threads. Of this an experiment may be tried, by putting a leech into oil, where it survives several days; upon being taken out and put into water, there appears to lose from its body a kind of slough, shaped like the creature’s body. The organ of respiration, though uncertain, seems to be situated in the mouth; for, if like an insect, it drew breath through vent holes, it would not subsist in oil.

The use of the leech in medicine requires no description: it is sufficient to add, that in all cases of topical inflammation where there is fulness or pain, they are of the greatest utility, generally affording immediate relief, the wound produced by them rarely producing evil consequences. One precaution is necessary: when the leech is fixed it should be watched, lest it should find its way into the anus when used for haemorrhoids, or penetrate into the esophagus if employed near the mouth. In such cases we are informed, that swallowing a portion of common salt will not only cause them to desegregate their hold, but destroy them. If it is intended that the leech should draw a larger quantity of blood, the end of the tail may be severed; it then sucks continually, to replenish the loss it sustains. They are a kind of barometer, insomuch as they are observed to be very restless before a change of weather, and to fix themselves above the water on the approach of a fine day.

As these little animals are dependent on for the removal of very dangerous diseases, and as they often seem capriciously determined to resist the endeavors made to cause them to adhere, the following directions may be of service. The skin, previous to their application, should be very carefully cleansed from any foulness, and moistened with a little milk, or milk and sugar, or a little blood may be drawn by a slight puncture. The method of applying them is by confining them to the skin by a small wince with a piece of lint, or with a pin or box, or what is still better, and which keeps them within a narrow compass, by the neck of a common vial.

Leeches should be kept in transparent vessels, filled with spring water, which should be changed frequently. A clear, warm day should be selected to catch them, as they will be discovered on the edges of the water. In cloudy or stormy weather, they recede from the shore into deep water.

SOAP IN BURNS.

During many years of observation, and many subsequent ones of practice, we have uniformly remarked that, no application is more generally successful, than soap in burns. So frequent, so painful, and so dangerous, are extensive abrasions of the surface by the contact of substances calculated to destroy its vitality, that it is ever physician, an important object to

become possessed of some remedy which will alleviate the suffering and avert the danger of such cases. We can confidently assert that the remedy we propose is admirably calculated to effect these objects, and restore the parts to healthy action. This desirable result will be certain, not only in cases of burns by hot iron and hot water, but, with whatever substance the disease may have been induced, the cure will be speedy and undoubted. Several recent examples, which have occurred in our practice, will illustrate the efficacy of this remedy. One of the worst was a young girl, who had her whole back scalded by boiling water, and when the ointment was first applied, there were large spots of proud flesh rising in different places to the height of half an inch above the surface of the wound. It soon disappeared, and the healing process was rapid.—Another severe case was a woman about forty. Her constitution was bad, and perhaps the same might be said of her habits. Several days before she applied to us, she had fallen in the fire and burnt her head. The wound had been since dressed with some kind of fastid ointment, which had been of little use, for the burn extended from just below the superciliary ridges quite to the back part of the head; it spread over the whole of the scalp which covers the frontal bone, and nearly all that which is over both parietals; every part of it was foul and offensive, and the healing process had not yet commenced. The patient was exceedingly weak, and the internal use of sulphuric acid was the only assistance required by the local applications to effect her speedy recovery from a state of great loathsome ness, excreting pain, and no inconsiderable danger.—A third case which may be noticed, was an honest old man of color, who had been a faithful servant in several families for nearly sixty years. He accidentally broke a phial of sulphuric acid which he was carrying in the pocket of his pantaloons. The wound was rather deep than extensive, but soon healed.

The soap or ointment which has been used in all these cases, is made of equal parts of olive oil and lime water, to which a little essence was added to give it consistence. This is one of the most common applications to burns, but ought, we think, to be preferred to any of the others. It has been found so useful at the iron works at Carron in Stirlingshire, that in all Scotland it has obtained the name of Carron oil. There was a boy came to us not long since, who had burnt his foot very badly by placing it accidentally into a tub of hot soap—and we were some time at a loss to know whether it could be cured by cold soap. In the few first dressings, the lime water was therefore omitted, and after that, it began to heal as usual, but it did not seem to improve much till this was added. Daily ablation in castile soap souds was enjoined in every case.

THE INFLUENZA.

On the whole, we do not recollect that there has ever prevailed in this city, an epidemic so general and so severe, as that which now interrupts every family circle, and casts a gloom over every countenance. When it commenced, about three weeks ago, it was comparatively mild; it has since assumed a more malignant character, and led to lung fevers and pleurisy, and at present seems to terminate frequently in distressing affections of the throat. About 30,000 of our inhabitants are probably suffering at this moment, and it is not only difficult, but absolutely impossible, to find enough well to take proper care of tho.
sick. It is truly melancholy, in passing our streets, to see almost everyone muffled up, as if fearful of inhaling the poison, and to hear, within doors and without, such constant coughing.

A more active treatment is required now than when we last spoke of the disease; when taken in reason, an ounce of castor oil, and the same quantity of spirits of turpentine mixed, and swallowed at a draught, affords the most immediate relief. An opiate should be given at night, and a tendency to the surface kept up.

When these means prove unavailing in arresting the malady, and it terminates in any settled local inflammation, this must be treated on general principles.

REPORTS.

REMOVAL OF A PORTION OF THE SCAPULA.

A female employed in the manufacture of silk, 43 years of age, began, in 1819, to perceive a tumor on the posterior and middle portion of her shoulder-blade: it was immovable, painful to the touch, and appeared fixed to the bone. In 1824, this tumor had acquired the size of a child's head, was hard, wrinkled, and had occupied all the bone, excepting its inferior border and the supravital fossa, and had extended itself into the highest part of the axilla, with an elongated and voluminous pedicle. It was moveable in all directions, and carried the arm with it in all the motions given to it. The portion of this swelling which was situated in the axilla, obliged the patient constantly to keep her arm elevated, and at a right angle with the trunk of the body. Violent pains, darting from the shoulder along the arm, were felt in the breast. At length, from indigestion and want of sleep the patient had become emaciated, and was evidently sinking.

On the 4th of October, M. Jason attempted the removal of the tumor. He included it within two semi-circular incisions; dissected the edges of the wound, so as to preserve as much skin as possible, and detached the tumor in every direction; and, in passing the instrument into the centre throughout its whole thickness, he removed the greatest part; cutting the attachment of the trapezius, of the supra and infra spinatus muscles, he discovered that all the portion of the scapula situated above its spine was in a healthy condition; and, separating by the saw the diseased part of the bone, he thus preserved the articulation of the arm. Finally, laying bare that portion of the tumor situated in the axilla by an oblique incision from below upwards, he dissected it, and drew it upward carefully: the circular tissue which fixed it to the arm gave way, and he succeeded in removing it entirely. All the vessels were then tied; the axilla properly supported by a plug; and the edges of the wound, which was six inches across, and nine in length, were brought together with sticking-plaster.

For a few days the success of the operation was doubtful, from causes affecting the general health; but these were calmed, and the patient quitted the hospital at the end of two months, nearly cured. On the 15th of March, it was entirely healed, and the motions of the limb were becoming daily free.

VARIETIES.

EXTRACTION OF OPTIC FROM THE INDIGENOUS POPPET. (By M. Laine.)—In October, 1824, the author made a very careful series of experiments with papillae in the eyes of the fox, which he directed the surgeon to procure, and he made a series of twenty capsules. In April the ground was dug and raked, and in May the plants were gathered. Of them grew to the height of four feet and a half. The meat was conveyed to the university, and there kept in small baskets until the 15th of June. In this way the disease will go through its progress more quickly, and the patient will suffer much less.

MADISON UNIVERSITY.—The legislature have appointed a committee to visit the Medical University of Maryland, at Baltimore, to ascertain whether any alterations in the charter are necessary, and if so, whether they are willing to consent to such as the committee may deem necessary, for the more effectual attainment of the objects of the institution. The decision will no doubt determine the opinion of many members of the legislature, as to granting the application for a new medical college.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending February 18; from the Health-Office Returns. February 10.—Henry F. Sears, 9 mo; Deacon Josiah Salisbury, 45. 11th.—Hon. Elihu Lyman, 43; Rev. W. Webster, 40; Capt. John Oake, 10 mo; Col. John Everett, 25; Lucy Lewis Henshaw, 5 days. 13th.—Mary Carter, 38; Maria A. Ferriter, 13 mo; John Alexander Boston, 75; Rebecca Edwards, 91. 14th.—Catharine Carroll, 2; William Charles Wright, 40; Mrs. Alice Gilman, 62; John Bat- tis; Nancy Hooten, 22; Elias Brown, 50; Catharine Sawyer, 70; Eliza Gould, 58; Julius Sanders, 14; Phoebe Kennedy, 24. 17th.—William S. Nott; Capt. John Dearborn, 12; Mrs. John Dearborn, 2; Eliza Pollard, 32; Aaron Pierce, about 42.

A THERM.:

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

FOR FEBRUARY 15.

JUST published by John Cotsor, No. 184, Washing- ton Street, corner of Franklin-Street.

CONTENTS. Hints on the Improvement of Women—Objections to the Use of Opium—A Diamond, and a Clasp—A Woman—Sir Reginald; or, the Days of 1745—The Elpomont—A Ballad—The Norfolk Turnip—An Anecdote—Sir Forth's Legacy—The Lawn-Suit—Colonel McKey's Patern, and John W. W. D—Scene at Consantinople—On the Working of Animal horn in General—The Farewell—Beauty-Training, or Hints to the Ladies—Visit to the Royal Chapel—Economy; or, the Art of Novel Writing—Progress of Playhouses—Useful Hints—Nuptial Ceremonies—Anecdote of Vailter—Precious Relique—Greenwich Hospital—Cricket.

Medical Books.


An Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery, by Thomas Denman, from the last London Edition, with notes by Dr. John W. Francis, of New York.

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HARRISON GRAY, No. 72, Washington St.
MR LAWRENCE’S LECTURES ON THE EYE.
(Continued from page 169.)

The more thoroughly any organ has been investigated, anatomically, Physiologically, and pathologically, the better shall we be prepared to treat its diseases. In this respect the eye is admirably circumstanced; its anatomy is well known; its physiology clearly made out. A considerable portion of the organ is external, and the transparency of the front enables us to see much of its interior. We can observe the phenomena of disease, and the effect of remedies on its internal structure: we can see these processes actually going on in such parts as are elsewhere hidden from our view. The observations thus made on the eye are applicable to the illustration of disease and treatment in other organs.

Hence if the general principles of medical science throw light on ophthalmic affections, the history and progress of the latter, reciprocally afford valuable data for general pathology.

But can the diseases of any organ be well studied alone? Can they advantageously be made the subject of detached and separate investigation and treatment? Each organ of the body has its own structure, and its own effect. But it is organically connected to the surrounding parts, and it does not perform its office independently of the rest; on the contrary, the several parts, whose assemblage compose an animal, concur, each in its own way, in one general effect—the life of the individual. Hence they are united by numerous connexions, and exercise over each other, almost universally, more or less powerful influence.

There is a common source of nutrition, a common centre of circulation, and of nervous energy for the whole body. Besides these, there are numerous mutual influences, from contiguity of position, connexion of structure, similarity of organization, and relation of different functions; besides the obscure mutual operations, called sympathies, so well known in their effect, but not yet clearly made out in cause and mode of influence. Hence the individual organs are not independent. The causes of their natural functions, and of those deviations which constitute disease, are not to be found within themselves, but mostly in the state of the constitution, or in that of some leading system of organs.

Hence, in order to understand any part of the body, you must know the whole; and this holds equally good in disease as in health. Suppose a person complains of dizziness or weakness of sight, we shall not be able to treat the case locally, for probably there may be no visible alteration in the organ, indeed no local indication. We must look to the state of the circulation in the head, to the condition of the digestive organs; we must inquire into the patient’s habits, into his general mode of living, as well as into the causes which may be acting on the eye. Until this analysis has been made, you cannot know the causes of disease, nor can you arrive at clear grounds of treatment. You usually find that the eye must be cured, not by any direct measures, but by those of general influence—by loss of blood, purging, change of diet.

In such a system then, of intricate connexion and mutual influence, each part will be best understood by those who have the clearest notions of the general economy. Even the practical treatment is most judiciously conducted by those who are in the habit of treating disease generally; who do not confine their attention to the part. This confinement is prejudicial, by producing and confirming habits of partial and narrow views, by leading to neglect of mutual relations and influences, by encouraging local treatment. Exclusive attention to a small corner of the animal structure, causes a confinement of mental vision, analogous to the nearsightedness which mechanisms by constantly poring over the minute objects of their attention. All the habits of the oculist lead to a separation and insolation of the organ. The part is detached from the system, treated by washes, drops, ointments; and this absurd trifling supersedes the art and science of ophthalmic surgery.

We want, instead of this, general and comprehensive views, the aid of analogy and contrast; the whole field of medicine and surgery must be laid under consideration, for the principles which are to guide us in learning the nature and treatment of ophthalmic disease. Professed oculists have done nothing for the science, either here or abroad. We have had many in England; they have been active enough too; but their writings have been of little or no value. The only real and valuable improvements have proceeded from men of extensive anatomical knowledge, and of great general insight into disease.

A question has been raised, whether a minute knowledge of anatomy is necessary to physicians or surgeons? and pains have been taken to show that it is not. The persons who have given themselves this trouble seem to have been afraid that physicians and surgeons would study anatomy too deeply; would overburthen themselves with it, and fill their heads so full as not to leave room for other matters. My acquaintance with the profession has not inspired me with the smallest apprehension of the kind.

We may leave this point, so far as physicians are concerned, to be settled among themselves, observing only, that if they should decide the question against the necessity of anatomical knowledge, they had better not publish their decision. If a man who undertakes to cure the defects and disorders of a machine, says that his remedies are of such a kind as not to require any acquaintance with the construction of that machine, we should not have much confidence in his proceedings.

We come to surgery; but I will not degrade myself, and insult you, by cooly calculating with you how small a stock of scientific knowledge it may be possible to carry on the trade of surgery. The health, the lives, the loves of our fellow creatures are entrusted to our care, with a confidence in our knowledge, skill, and humanity; our utmost exertions, and most anxious toil after information, will not do more than enable us to justify such confidence. What kind of feelings—what conscience can the man possess, who can plunge an instrument into the human body without knowing what he may divide or injure—who can operate without that full anatomical knowledge that will enable him to meet every emergency? How could he bear his own reflections, if he should see a patient, seriously and permanently injured, in consequence of his ignorance and rashness? and all this vexation, shame and remorse to be encountered, to save a little trouble in the study of his profession! At all events minute anatomical knowledge is necessary to an acquaintance with diseases of the eye, especially in the important subject of diagnosis, and in operations.

You may be rather surprised at finding that the separation of the ophthalmic department from the rest of surgery is very ancient, and is, perhaps, coeval with the origin of medicine itself. Among the Egyptians, to whom we trace most of our arts and sciences, it was preserved as a distinct branch of practice; amongst them each class of diseases had its physician, and we find from Herodotus, that Cyrus sent to Amasis, the king of Egypt, for a celebrated oculist. The Greeks and the Romans had their oculists, as is evident, not only from their writings, but from inscriptions on ancient marbles. The antiquaries have shown that Augustus and Tiberius had their oculists: on one stone they found engraved, P. Attius Attianus Augusti medicus ab oculis; and on another, T. Lyrius Tiberici medicus ocularius. There is no doubt that oculists were at least as numerous in ancient Rome as in any other city.

The Greeks, the Romans, and the Arabs were ignorant of anatomy, and could not, therefore, be acquainted with the essential nature of diseases, i.e. the altered structure of organs; nor could their changes, which really constitute disease, their appropriate external signs or symptoms. This disadvantage, however, is not so great in diseases of the eye as in many other affections, because so many of them are externally visible, and obvious enough without anatomical knowledge. Hence the Greeks, who were good observers of nature, had noticed most forms of eye disease, in many instances described them well and distinguished them accurately. The extent of their knowledge is evidenced by the immeasurable records of their language, for most of the diseases still bear the names given to them by the Greek writers. Celsus contains a summary of all that was known in his time. Although he was entirely ignorant, even of the seat of catarrh, he has described the operation of coughing excellently and very concisely, not omitting the important subjects of previous preparation and after treatment; for which his directions are quite judicious.

In the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, and first half of the eighteenth century, the management of the diseases of the eye was left to quacks, to mountebanks, and itinerant practitioners. There were many of them, both in our own country and on the Continent; and a man called
Woolhouse, who was a pupil of Dr. James II.,
signalled himself by opposing the doctrine of
the lens being the seat of cataract. A family
of the name of Taylor, for many generations,
were in great repute. The most celebrated of
these, after he cured all the cullible in this
country, according to his own account, took it
into his head to visit the Continent, and there
he travelled with a most splendid equipage;
his carriage was drawn by four horses, very gayly
capprisoned; then he had four out-riders, and as
many in the rear of the procession; the pannels
of the carriage were painted over with eyes to
depose his profession, and he adopted as his mo-
to: * Quis visum dat, vitam dat." (A laugh.)
Baron Wenzel, a dashing operator, and among his
per-
egrinations paid a visit to this country, and he
had acquired considerable dexterity in the per-
currence of certain operations. His success, as
an operator, may be supposed to have been
very uncertain, when it is considered that he would
perform an operation, tie a piece of rag over the
eye, give directions that it should be kept on 2
or three weeks, and start off to some new theatre
for the display of his skill. If the patient re-
covers at all very well, and a great noise was
made of the recovery of the patient’s sight; but
if, as often happened, the eye was lost from
destructive inflammation, nothing more was
thought of it. (To be continued.)

BLOWS ON THE HEAD.
The practice of using the trepan in cases of frac-
ture, and even when fracture is suspected, with many
surgeons is too readily adopted. The application of
this instrument, frequently not only fails to do good,
but does much mischief. Its ill success, in the hands
of skilful surgeons, should not however be attributed
to its indiscreet use, for they seldom operate except in
extreme cases, when the indications are precise; then
the patient may be lost not from the operation but from
the disease. In slight cases the cure may be obtained
in spite of an opening in the skull; but the operation
is always a dangerous one and should not be resolved
upon without distinct indications.

When the assemblage of phenomena affords a strong
probability that the bad symptoms are owing to com-
pression from pieces of the skull rather than to some
affection of the brain, if the bones are bare, and appear
below their natural level, it is necessary to employ the
trepan for removal of the depression. Such extreme
cases, in practice rarely occur. In most cases where the
depression is not considerable, the brain gradually
accustoms itself to the depression it suffers, and the pa-
tient recovers, whether the depression of the bone con-
tinues or becomes removed, if care be taken to coun-
teract those affections of the brain that do not depend
on compression.
If the depressed pieces of bone can be elevated with-
out having recourse to the operation, that method
should always be adopted; and they may almost al-
ways be peised with forceps or some other instrument.
Authors who have written on wounds of the head, have
frequently cited cases in which depression of the bones
of the skull, left to nature, were perfectly cured, not
withstanding a complication in some cases of other
affections. The seat of the blow—where the patient
complains—where he places his hand—where the bones
are denuded, and of a duller color—where the peri-
cranium is detached, can neither establish the seat or
the existence of an effusion. The operation, therefore,
should always be refrained from, where fracture is not
plainly to be discovered.

Opening the skull, in the usual manner, a knowledge
of the nature of the process, or a collection of matter will be
exposed to the access of air: besides, it is uncertain in
what part of the brain the effusion exists. Should it be
open to the opening of the cranium, the pus may be
exuded over a large portion of the membrane to
which it strongly adheres, and cannot escape except in
a very small quantity.

Desult, in the latter part of his practice employed
the trepan, only in cases distinguished with the most
manifest indications; in the last five years of this great
man’s practice, he proscribed it entirely, on the double
reason of its danger, and ordinary inutility, and the
success obtained by this method was such that, com-
paring the years of his use of the trepan, with those of
its abstinence from it, the number of patients cured in
the latter, greatly surpassed those saved in the former.
This doctrine and practice, during his latter years,
merit a consideration to which the reverse of it which
he professed and taught at his commencement, is not
entitled. Then experience had not instructed him;
and afterwards, this alone, disregarded from all theory,
painted out the path which he pursued with signal suc-
cess till his death.

Purgers, blisters, bleeding, and other means, calcula-
ted to oppose the primitive effect of affections in the
brain, and to prevent inflammation, are very often ex-
cessively attended with accidents or structures of the skull. As we
are most frequently unacquainted with the indica-
tion of the trepan though it may exist, we should generally
limit ourselves to general means of cure in affections
following blow upon the head, especially evacuations,
low diet, and the abstinence of all stimulants.

Jan. 29th, on board a vessel at India wharf, a plank
fell from aloft and struck John Bowman, seet. 29, on the
right side of the head, about midway and a little for-
ward of a line drawn from the crown to the ear. He
was put into a carriage helpless, and assembled, and on
his way to his lodgings in Salem street, a mile distant,
we were called, and rode with him to his home. The
surface and extremities were cold, breathing stertorous
and slow. After exciting the circulation, and produc-
ing some warmth upon the surface and extremities, he
was blest twenty ounces. The breathing became more
natural—he seemed waking from deep sleep, spoke
to his mother, and recognized several of his friends.
There was now twitching of the muscles of the left
side of the face, numbness and inability to move the
left hand, difficulty of swallowing, of protruding the
lower, of speaking, and moving the jaws. He spoke of
a roaring noise in his head, and loss of hearing in the
left ear. On examining the head, a spot of the size of
the thumb nail was found to be soft and to admit of de-
pression, which instantly produced a recurrence of sleep
with slow and stertorous breathing. The head was im-
mediately shaved, and covered with a blistering pla-
ter, and the patient ordered calomel and jalap, each
twenty grains, the medicine to be hastened, in its op-
eration, if necessary, by glysters. Six hours after, the
medicine had operated thoroughly—the blistering pla-
ter had produced no effect: it was removed and the
head rubbed with turpentine and the plaster reap-
plied. The patient complained of more pain in the head,
the most in the right side,—in other respects nothing alter-
ted. He was left for the night. When seen at six
in the morning, the head was well blistered, and the
pain less intense. The twitching of the face had cess-
ed. He remained much in this state the three follow-
ing days, when he complained of more pain in the
head, became raving, and was soon seized with the
most violent spasms; he was bled from twelve to six-
teen ounces, when he became comparatively quiet,
and though the muscles still acted involuntarily, the action
seemed to be governed, if we may use the expression,
by some intelligence, or directed more to some object.
From this time the bad symptoms gradually abated, un-
der a moderately depleting course, and the patient is
now recovered.

SYMPATHETIC PITTHESIS.
Many cases have recently been reported in the con-
tinental Journals, of extreme pulmonary catarrh, and
even what appeared to be consumption, yielding to
remedies, considered inert in those diseases them-
seh. It has been by these cases that the attention of
the faculty has been directed to this subject; and af-
fter much investigation, it is ascertained that many
cases which assumed all the symptoms of phthisis, are
but a diseased state of the stomach. This deceptive
complaint of the organ of digestion, has been divided
into two kinds or classes. The first is a true inflam-
mation—a chronic inflammation of the mucous mem-
brane, and is relieved by the free application of leeches
to the epigastrum. The second is an embarrassment
of the organ, which is rendered woe by the abstraction
of blood, but effectually relieved by a persevering use
of emetics.

The stomach of a person who died of this disease
was opened, and on the inner surface were found eighty
gnuses about the size of a walnut, attached to the
folds of the mucous membrane.

Doubtless cases similar to those above described, oc-
cur frequently in this country, and let these remarks
serve as a beacon to guide in future the intelligent
and discriminating practitioner.

QUACK MEDICINES.
We know not whether it is that more than usual patronage has recently been given to quack medicines, or,
on the other hand, that the vendors of them find the sale uncomonly dull; but certain it is that one cause or
other they are more abundantly offered to the public
just now than we recollect ever to have seen them be-
fore, and more fully attended, too, with "certificates" of
person who fill high stations which we never before
heard of, and recommendations of individuals whose
names are got up with a considerable share of ingenuity.
If we take up the Centinel, Statesman, or almost any
other paper printed in this city or vicinity we find full
two and often three columns filled with advertisements
of this dangerous species of medicine. What will the
world think of the state of our profession in this part of
the country? Either that physicians are scarce, or not
entitled to confidence; and those who are aware that
the facts are just the reverse of these, must conclude,
that the people are ignorant, credulous, and easily im-
plicated on. The effect, then, of these advertisements,
which increase with alarming rapidity, must be, to in-
sure the character of the profession or the people,
and still more likely of both, in the estimation of the world;
and among ourselves to bring disease, and pain, and re-
pentence on those who believe and purchase, and ex-
cite disgust in those who have too much sense to be
depayed by them.

We cannot but wonder that any encouragement
should be given to these nostrums in a land where
the people are generally well educated and intelligent,
and we can attribute it to nothing less than intimation,
when we see how often the fatal effects of the interfe-
rence of quackery has been and is daily published in
the very papers which teem with the advertisements
we refer to.

There is, however, a principle in our nature, which,
if not properly restrained, leads us to the most foolish
and often destructive actions. It is a spirit of specula-
tion, a love of mystery, and a delight in hazard. It is
by this principle weak men are induced to buy lottery
tickets, where there is almost a certainty against them,
yet they run the risk because they may possibly gain a
prize, for a trifle. It must be by this same principle
that men take quack medicines—for the simplest and
sharpest beings must know by this time that the
change is a hundred to one their health will be destroy-
ed, but yet there is a possibility, say they, that we
may be cured, and that at a cheap rate. For the cred-
ulity of our country and of our race, we wish there were
a smaller proportion of such false reasoners among us.

Will all men be convinced that the wisest and
the only sure way to wealth is persevering industry,
and that the shortest and best road to health can only
be pointed out by those who have learned the art.

TO PHYSICIANS.

In June last we suggested to medical societies and
associations, the expediency of enjoining upon their
members, carefully to note what of importance oc-
curred in their practice, and to communicate it to the so-
ciety or association to which they belonged. We fur-
ther suggested that a committee be appointed by such
societies, whose duty it should be to arrange matter
thus collected for publication. We have now the plea-
ture to announce to our readers, that measures simi-
lar to these have been adopted by the Med. Soc. of N.
H. and a publishing committee has been appointed
with which we have made arrangements to have papers
thus collected inserted in our journal. We congratulat
the friends of our work that a source of so much prac-
tical knowledge is opened to the profession. The surgi-
cal reports of Dr Mussey, Prof. of Anat. and Surg, in
Dartmouth College, and those of Dr T.Witchell of Kenne
will alone give a more ample supply to this department
than any medical journal in N.E. is at present furnished
with. Should other societies adopt a similar plan, we
would willingly circulate our work, and supply every
medium through which to make communications to the profession; and as far
as it is an object for those who write on medical sub-
jects to have their opinions widely and generally dis-
sseminated, we are confident that at this time, it cannot
be more fully attained by any journal in the United
States, than by the Medical Intelligencer.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS OF THE BRAIN AND
NERVOUS SYSTEM.

EPILEPSY.

There are two modifications of epilepsy, one
which arises in children, and which is connected
with irritation of the mucous membrane of the in-
estines; and another which arises in adults,
and which is connected originally with an affec-
tion of the brain. That which takes place in
practice at Grenada, before he adopted these
precautionary measures. When tetanus merely
attacks the muscles about the neck and jaw, it
is often recoverable, but when the other mus-
cles are also affected, it is a most formidable af-
faction. The morbid anatomy is various, but
the brain is mostly somewhere discolored, with
congestion of the lungs and mucous internal mem-
branes, probably in part the effect of the con-
usive pressure of the muscles on the external
veins, as happens in hunted animals.—He thinks
that those patients had the best chance of recov-
ery, who were mildly treated, and nursed, as it
were, through the disease. In illustration of
this, he details the result of the experience of
two of his friends who had practised extensively
in tropical climates, both of whom had been
more than commonly successful by doing less
than had usually been done in such cases. Their
plan was, moderate and repeated doses of opiu-
om, occasionally laxative enema, light nutriment,
and stimulating friction in the course of the
spine, together with every attention to the state
of the mind, allaying apprehensions and inspir-
ing confidence in the remedies employed.

CHOREA.

Chorea originates in irritation of the mucous
membrane of the stomach, or small intestines,
together with a disordered condition of skin
and a consequent torpid or irregular state of the liv-
er and colon. In the progress of the complaint, the
spinal cord and brain become disstirred, so as to
affect the motion, and at last the intellect.
The laxative plan recommended by Dr Hamil-
ton, junior, only fails where the aperients are
mild, occasionally conjoined with an alterative,
where the diet is at the same time properly regu-
lated, and the functions of the skin restored by
a tepid shower bath, and the influence of a fresh
atmosphere. Dr A relates a curious case, in
which not only purgatives, but the arsenical
solution, the sulphate of zinc, and various other means
with much less effect, were resorted to in the in-
fect of procuring sleep daily, and at last of re-
moving the disorder altogether. He cautions
pupils against the free use of the lancet, and ad-
duces a case in which it had nearly proved fa-
tal; but he asserts, that he has seen moderate
leeching useful in some cases where the intesti-
nal lining was distinctly in a very irritable con-
dition. He thinks it of great consequence in this
and many other nervous affections, not to direct
the attention of the patient’s mind to the com-
plaint, for it is thereby apt to be greatly increas-
ed, as any one may easily perceive, when they
make many inquiries in connection to the pain.

The care of this complaint can seldom
be accomplished under any plan in less than
about six weeks or two months, and if the diet
is neglected, it will generally continue much
longer.

HYSTERIA.

The foundation of hysteria is laid in an excess
of sensibility, sometimes associated with local ir-
ritation, especially about the mucous mem-
bane of the intestinal canal, or the mucous lining
of the uterus, the latter being an affection much
more common than medical authors have sup-
posed. In the prevention and cure of hysteria, it is
of the utmost consequence to bear the two
forementioned circumstances in view, for by le-
sening the general sensibility, and removing the
local irritation, this affection, when not associ-
ated...
ed with any other, might be readily removed. The most common exciting cause of hystera is some strong mental motion, and the affection is often protracted day after day, week after week, by the sympathy of attendent friends, which is the very food of hystera. Dr Armstrong relate the following case, which resulted in a return of the affection by attending to the mental management. He details one in particular, where the patient had been ill for upwards of two months, the hystera in that time having assumed various forms, and having at last put on a violent convulsive character, which so alarmed the friends, and even the medical attendants, that she was watched day and night by three or four attendants. Dr Armstrong removed these attendants, placed an old nurse by the bedside, and told her not to take the least notice of the patient whatever might happen. Shortly after, a strong convulsive fit occurred, so that the patient tumbled out of bed upon the carpet. The old nurse let her lie, and when she had recovered from it, rebuked her for being so foolish as to give way to such fantastic fits. The patient had no return of the affection, and the father was so much surprised, that he said, if any mystery had been used, the case might have been deemed miraculous. He mentions several similar cases, and remarks, that they must be familiar to all observant practitioners, and shows how easy it might be to deceive the public by operating through the medium of mind, if men were disposed to play such a part as the impious impostor Prince Hohenlohe, whose monkish pretensions had made so much noise amongst the ignorant. With respect to medical treatment, it should consist entirely in the removal of any local irritation which may exist, which, however, should be done by the mildest measures, as hysterial women seldom bear copious evacuations without an increase of that sensibility upon which the affection mainly depends. Exercise in the open air, a simple diet, early hours as to sleep, a due attention to the condition of the mind, and a regular regimen, are the best means of preventing a return of the affection, together with an avoidance of that open and declared sympathy on the part of friends, by which it is so frequently supported. At the same time when a medical man recommends this plan, he should clearly explain his motives to the attendants, otherwise his conduct might seem harsh, however humane it is in reality.

VARIETIES.

Teacher's Modern Practice.—A new and improved edition of Dr. Teacher's Modern Practice is now in preparation for the press. To this work will be prefixed an interesting history of the rise and progress of medical science in the U. S., detailing in the order of time, the events which have occurred in the seventeen medical schools with the names of the Professors and the number of students in each, together with the expenses and terms of admission and graduation. To enable the medical student to get a clear view of the condition of medicine in this work the author has consulted those European authorities which are considered the highest standing at the present day. But as relates to epidemic and other diseases of our own country, the correspondenee will be given to American authors as the most correct and sure guide to American practitioners.

Influenza.—Nineteen persons died of this disease in New-York last week, and it appears to be extending its ravages in all parts of the country. The editors of the National Intelligencer have seen letters from South-Carolina, giving the most afflicting accounts of the ravages of the disease in the interior of that country. In New-York, during the past three days, nineteen deaths in one family, and sixteen in another. The people are dying about us very fast, too many to relate. It is thought to be the most fatal with the black people.

BOTANICAL EXPERIMENT.—The following experiment was lately made by Mr. Henry Phillips, to show the different effects of natural and artificial light on the growth and branches of several species of trees, plants, etc., and decortacions, etc., whilst their penatated leaves were fully expanded. On placing them in a dark room, the leaves almost immediately collapsed like the sticks of a fan, or as the feathers of a bird's wing fold over each other. The strongest artificial light that could now be thrown over them had no effect on the automatic motion of the plants, and the foliage remained in a collapsed state until they were removed into the natural light of the day, when their sensitive properties immediately became perceptible, and the whole of the leaves were seen moving towards their natural and elegant direction with as much regularity as a regiment of soldiers file off at the word of command.

Bronchial.—This disease is more frequent among women than men, and much more so among young women. A girl about fifteen years of age, had been benefited by medicine, but will frequently disappear of itself. Sometimes the swelling grows, even in this country, to an enormous size; and I have known one or two cases in which it was necessary to have the windpipe cut open by which the leaves were not pressing the trachea and the gaseous passages. The medicines which Dr. Ells has found of most use have been burned, soup, soda, and mercury, used externally, either as an emetic or in the form of plaster.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—The degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred, on the 18th inst., on the following 15 young gentlemen, by the government of Harvard: Middlesex, H. H. Blood, of Sterling; Samuel Donnell, of Wenham, John Flint, of Leicester; Thomas B. Kittredge, of Waltham; N. H. J. B. Lane, of Lancaster; Julius S. Mayhew, of New-Beedford; Joseph Palmer, of Boston; Isaac P. Smith, of Manchester; George M. Smith, of Keene, N. H.; Greely Stevenson, of Boston, and Abielon Thompson, of Cambridge. We understand that one other was present for examination, and turned by.

HEALTH OF THE ATLANTIC CITIES.—Deaths in Boston, in 1825—1839; in New-York, 1801—1839; in Philadelphia, 1825—1839, and in Charleston, S. C. 1804ätz 1824—1839; in New-York, 1841; and in Philadelphia, 1839. It will be seen by the above that in Philadelphia, Washington, and Charleston, are not in all the cities, the health has been remarkable.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO.—There are sixty-three students attending lectures at this college the present session.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Wallace's interesting and well authenticated report of enlarged ovaria has been received, and appears next week.—Dr D's communication should have been acknowledged before.—Dr Hosack's Introductory Lecture has been received, of which further notice will soon be given.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, ending February 18th, from the Health-Office Returns.


Consumption, 3.—Appley, 1.—Lung Fever, 2.—In- flutile, 2.—Indisposition, 5.—Old Age, 1.—Bara, 2.—Still- born, 3. City Poor, 2.
OBSERVATIONS.

MR LAWRENCE'S LECTURES ON THE EYE.

(Continued from page 166.)

The anatomy and pathology of the eye, however, were almost wholly unknown by these men, and, as I have before observed, they did nothing to improve the treatment of ophthalmic disease; such might be, indeed, reasonably inferred from their ignorance of the two former subjects. The anatomy of the organ began to be more accurately cultivated by the Germans about the middle of the 15th century. Zinn, Professor of Anatomy at Gottingen, published an excellent anatomical description of the eye, entitled Descripção Oculi Humani Anatomica. Afterwards Soemmering published his Icones Oculi Humani, a work of unrivaled beauty and accuracy, exhibiting an almost perfect set of engravings.

Among the English authors, I think the best account of the anatomy of the eye is to be found in Dr Ree's Encyclopaedia, under the article Eye. It contains the substance of the descriptions of the preceding authors, and was furnished to that work by Mr Barnes, now residing at Exeter.

The pathology of the organ was not much cultivated until within recent times. Boerhaave made an attempt on the subject, but his work, De Nerbis Oculorum, is very imperfect; indeed some idea may be formed of the value of his pathological views, from what he has said about mercury dissolving cataracts; he says, "mercurius seppeperfectus demonstraverit cataracta." Schmidt, on the contrary, has become well known throughout Europe, in consequence of his having published several works. He was very zealous in his pursuit of information, and very industrious in collecting facts. Of the various books published by Beer, I shall only mention his last and greatest work. Although it contains, in two closely-printed and thick volumes, the most comprehensive account which we as yet possess on ophthalmic diseases, he very modestly call it only "A Guide, or Introduction, to his Lectures." It contains a very accurate description of the diseases of the eye, and of the distinction between the various affections. It is not common, however, for human productions to be perfect, and this of Beer's is not exempt from the common lot. With respect to description and diagnosis, this work is very valuable, but it is defective in pathology and treatment; the latter being too complicated, and by no means sufficiently active.

Weller's Manual of Ophthalmic Diseases is an abridgment of Beer and other German authors. It has been translated into English by Dr Menteith, of Glasgow. It will show you the views entertained by the German practitioners; but you must recollect that Weller has extracted from Beer and others, and this (showing the English book) is translated from Weller, so that it gives you the sentiments of the original writers at third hand.

The use of belladonna and hyoscynamus for artificially dilating the pupil, was introduced by Professor Hall, of Gottingen, as a method by which to examine more correctly the interior of the eye, and, on account of the facility which it affords in assisting our diagnosis of the internal affections of the organ, deserves particular mention. He was the able coadjutor of Schmidt in the Ophthalmologische Bibliothek. Lauerbeck, the present Professor of Surgery at Gottingen, has turned his attention to the subject, and has published some interesting papers, besides noticing all new works, to his Chirurgische Bibliothek.

At Berlin, Gräfle and Rust, and at the University of Bonn, Walther, have published several useful tracts on diseases of the eye.

The attention of the Profession in this country, though late, has at last been directed to ophthalmic diseases, and this Infirmary, which was established in 1804, and which was thrown open to the profession in 1810, gave the first impulse to the study of ophthalmic medicine and surgery in England. Mr Schmidt, on the conclusion with Dr Farre, received a regular medical education at the Hospitals in the Borough; he had it for some time under his entire management; he introduced the improvement of operating for cataract on infants; and there is no doubt that he would, had he lived, have done much for the improvement of the science.

The example set by this Infirmary has been followed by others in London, Exeter, Bath, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Dublin, and other places; also in America, and in each of the Presidencies of the East Indies.

It will be necessary for me to mention to you, in a general way, such books as you should have recourse to, to assist you in studying this department of your profession. Among the English books, I may observe that, those of the late Mr Waren were considered, for a long time, books of authority, and perhaps, if I were to say nothing respecting them, you might infer that I thought the same; but low as the state of ophthalmic surgery was in England, at the time of Mr Waren, I consider that his writings are far below the knowledge even of that time. They had an extensive circulation because there were no others. His descriptions of disease are perfect, and his pathology and treatment very incorrect. On the important subject of ophthalmic inflammation, his notions are confused and incorrect; and he is altogether unsafe as a practical guide. The only value of his writings, at present, arises from their containing some interesting facts, which occurred in a long practice. The posthumous works of Mr Saunders, edited by his friend and colleague Dr Farre, is valuable, and well worth your study. Its style is clear and satisfactory, although the subjects of which it treats are few. The valuable observations appended by Dr Farre lead us to regret that he has not communicated to the public more largely, the interesting results of his long practice, his close observation, and mature reflection.

Scarpa's work on the diseases of the eye, which has been translated into English by Mr Briggs, is well worthy of perusal. The articles in the last edition of Mr Samuel Cooper's Surgical Dictionary are well executed and valuable, as they furnish at one view what would require the examination of many works to find. The translation of Weller by Dr Menteith, you will also find useful. Among living authors who have written on the diseases of the eye, I may mention to you Messrs Wardrop, Vetch, Travers, Guthrie and MacKenzie, names so respected, that it is not necessary for me to say anything more of their productions. The writings of the French oculists Maitre-Jean, Janin, and St Yves, although now antiquated; were much better.
chronic in inflammation of the larynx.

Chronic inflammation of the larynx is sometimes the sequel of an acute or subacute attack, but much more frequently it is a mere extension of the chronic form of inflammation of the fauces, the mucous membrane of both being continuous, along which it is, therefore, apt to spread in protracted cases. Chronic inflammation of the larynx is usually denoted by hoarseness of the voice, by a frequent hem! to clear the throat, by a sense of soreness about the larynx, and by a peculiar noise when the patient coughs out, referable to that part of the windpipe. At first the expectoration is mucous, but in its progress it becomes purulent, and a slow consuming fever attends the ulceration of the larynx which then occurs, and which is always accompanied with a spurious expectoration. In the first stage of this affection, in that of simple inflammation without ulceration, Dr. A. recommends local bleeding by leeches, mild aperients, nauseating doses of ipecacuanha occasionally, a bland diet, the tepid bath, and a regulated temperature, ranging from about 64 to 68, or 70, of Fahrenheit's scale. But when ulceration has actually occurred, he says, that the nauseating doses of ipecacuanha should be omitted, and a similar plan in other respects pursued, aided by the inhalation of the vapor of air, from which he has seen remarkably good effects in some cases. He mentions the practice of one surgeon who has been successful by washing the epiglotis and adjacent parts by a solution of the nitrate of silver; but observes, that he has only seen this bold practice pursued in one case, and that it gives less relief than has been anticipated in ulceration of the larynx. When the ulceration is syphilitic in its origin and progress, then the appropriate remedy ought to be cautiously used; but in every case the condition of the skin and internal mucous membrane should be judiciously regarded at the same time, since a morbid condition of those parts is invariably associated with chronic inflammation and ulceration of the larynx.

chronic inflammation of the fauces.

Chronic inflammation about the tonsils and mucous membrane adjacent, is a very common occurrence; it is not, however, generally a mere local affection, but connected mostly with a failed appearance of skin, and an irritative condition of the internal mucous membranes, especially of the stomach or small intestines, of which, indeed, it forms a part. Hence this is a very common disorder among those medical students who have fagged hard towards the close of the session. It is to be considered, in such and in almost every other of the bowels and the alimentaries of an approaching break up of the general strength, and therefore requires greater attention than a superficial pathologist might suppose. Dr. Armstrong says, that this chronic inflammation sometimes precedes an acute or subacute attack, but it more often continues under its original character, being sometimes accompanied by relaxation or elongation of the uvula, and sometimes by ulceration, with or without the aforementioned state of the uvula. There are two ulcerations of the throat, of a syphilitic nature, one superficial and spreading, surrounded by a copper-colored inflammation, another deep, as a portion of the part had been cut or dug out, attended by the same kind of dark inflammation, and usually by some cutaneous affection; but, when any doubt remains, the history of the case should be traced backward, as in syphilis, the primary symptoms always precede the secondary, or those of the soft parts, as the secondary always precede the tertiary, or those of the hard parts. The cure of chronic common inflammation of the fauces is to be affected, first, by those means which intend to remove the local inflammation there, and secondly, by those which tend to restore the skin and internal mucous membranes to a healthy state. Leeches should be applied occasionally to the throat, in conjunction with very mild aperient medicines when the bowels are constipated; but most advantage is to be derived from placing the patient in a fresh atmosphere, occasionally using a tepid bath, adopting a regulated diet, and removing all opposing circumstances, such as over exertion of mind, and the like. In regard to the diet, three simple meals in the day are generally sufficient, a small quantity of animal food being allowed for dinner, with a single glass of wine, when the fever is absent, and when there is no actual sign of chronic inflammation on the inner surface of the stomach and intestines; but where inflammation does exist, or where any degree of fever is present, then animal food should be wholly omitted, and a diet, partly of milk and chiefly partly of farinaceous articles, ought to be substituted.

spasmodic asthma.

Spasmodic asthma occurs by fits, at all times in the year, and very frequently in the summer. In some persons it is excited by disagreeable odors, or even by pleasant, such as hay, and hence it has been denominated, by country people, the hay asthma. Some patients liable to this affection are remarkably influenced by locality. Some can only reside comfortably in high situations, while others again only remain easy in low situations. The attack most frequently comes on towards morning, and is attended by a dryness about the nose, burning sensation of the skin, and increasing difficulty of breathing, so that the ribs are elevated, and the patient requires a constant supply of fresh air from without. Some heat of the surface usually supervenes, the pulse becomes quicker than natural, and at length a copious secretion takes place from the mucous membrane of the bronchia, which being coughed up, the fit gradually, and at last, for the most part, entirely abates, but is again renewed at certain or uncertain periods of time. Dr. Armstrong thinks that this affection, in its origin, is connected with the mucous membrane of the bronchia, and that the spasmodic affection is a merely a secondary one; but that in the progress of what is called spasmodic asthma, the heart or larger adjacent vessels, always become diseased, at least this is invariably found to be the case in those instances where he has seen bodies examined after death. He considers that much mischief has been done by those empirical attempts which have been made to cure spasmodic asthma, without a reference to its pathological peculiarities, and that this has especially happened in regard to the application of the galvanic or electric fluid, which he has seen when a concomitant organic affection of the heart, or large adjacent vessels, clearly contra-indicated its application to those who were acquainted with modern pathology. The great use of correct principles of pathology, is, that they show what is impossible as well as what is possible, and consequently prevent the profession from making a series of rash experiments, by which the sufferings of patients are increased and their lives shortened. The most important point at an early period of spasmodic asthma, is to find out a place most suitable for the patient, when his pecuniary circumstances will admit of it, and which will tend to restore the skin and internal mucous membranes to a healthy state. He remains quietly there, properly managing his diet, his clothing, and his exercise. During the attack, when the excitement is once developed, it requires to be treated on the same principles as has been recommended for chronic bronchitis; and where from long continuance it is conjoined with an affection of the heart, or large adjacent vessels, then a still mode of existence is most likely to lengthen the patient's life.

chronic inflammation of the bronchia.

Chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchia is exceedingly frequent in this variable climate. Sometimes it is connected with chronic irritation of the mucous membrane of the primary pari, or urinary organs, with a harsh or disordered condition of the skin, but in many cases it exists without such a conjunction. It is denoted by dusky lips, by a deep stufing cough attended by a loosened noisy, by a wheezing or hoary cough, especially on awaking, especially in the morning, and by difficulty of breathing, increased by exercise. The natural cure is by expectation, but this affection sometimes leads to chronic hepatisation of the lungs, and sometimes it excites tubercular consumption, particularly when it is prolonged in young and delicate subjects. Dr. Armstrong thinks, that chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchia is most effectually removed, or relieved, by those measures, which act simultaneously on the bowels and the skin; hence he has found mild aperients and sudorifics, with a regulated diet, answer the best; but he thinks that sparging the surface, first with tepid and then with cool salt water, is one of the most useful preventives of a return of this affection. In those cases, however, where it is conjoined with a disturbed state of the skin and mucous membrane of the primary pari, more will depend upon the right management of the clothing and diet than upon mere medical prescriptions. This affection has been called by various names when it occurs amongst old persons, such as catarrhus senilis, and huminum asthma; but the word asthma ought not to be applied to an affection which returns at certain intervals, and which has at those times a spasmodic character.
ABSTRACT

The weather. The last winter has plainly demonstrated that the measure of heat and cold cannot be determined by degrees of latitude, the season of the year, or by local situation. The steady, even temperature of former winters has, in the present, been predicted and looked for in vain. Spring has now commenced, and it is worthy of observation, that the signs of languor and debility appear marked upon people's countenances with unusual plenitude. The hiliarity, the strength, and the elicit, which are used to be produced in all by the clear, cold atmosphere of winter, are possessed by none, in seasons of this kind, in those of volatile temper and the most vigorous constitutions. The nervous system is affected by it, the brain, much more than the muscular. A cold temperature, though its sensibility is diminished, the intellectual powers acquire vigor with the increased tone of the body; while tenderness, and those feelings connected with an irritable system, are, in proportion, less acute. The stomach, which partakes of the state of the nerves and moving fibres, experiences an increased tone. Its functions are less rapid, and performed more perfectly; and for similar reasons, the bowels are frequently less active, and the nutritive particles, by delay, more completely separated. In short, if the limits were to be fixed where the animal system should acquire the most perfect vigor, we would place it in those regions where the heat seldom rises above 70 or falls below 30 deg.

When, during a greater part of the year, the temperature is below the latter point, we find the effects of cold more striking, except as it tends to increase the vigor of the intellectual faculties. When the irritability is further lessened, strength of mind becomes torpor; energy and vigor are sunk into insensibility, and routed only by violent causes to temporary exaltation. When still further lessened, the distinguishing features of humanity are almost wholly lost. Even parental affection has little influence. Love, which in warmer and more genial climates refines the heart and awakening every good feeling, here sinks into an animal passion, neither important or refined; and the same want of irritability protracts the period of puberty, and lessens proportionately the number of offspring.

Fewer diseases are produced by steady cold, than by variable or warm weather, in winter. Although cold checks the growth, protracts the period of puberty, and renders the female less prolific, yet all these are within the limits of health; and we may as well say the Italian, full of fire and passion, is diseased from excess of fulness and irritability, as the Laplandier, from defect of both.

The principal diseases of the past winter seem to have been influenced by the variability of the weather. These have been catarrhs with all their attendant symptoms, and in every degree of severity. Most of the varieties of the present epidemic may be traced to this cause, although the existence and prevalence of the epidemic itself, depended on some peculiar constitution of the atmosphere.

COBWEB.

It is some years since the cobweb has been introduced as a universal medicine, though it has long been used as a common styptic in checking the hemorrhage from slight cuts. A case occurred to us about a year ago which seemed to require just such a medicine as the cobweb has been represented to be by the French Journalists. There seemed to be in this case a general disposition to hemorrhage. We found the patient laboring for breath, extremely weak; coughing up blood from the lungs, and discharging it in large quantities from the bowels. By the administration of 5 grs. of cobweb every three or four hours the whole difficulty was removed, so that when we saw the patient next day, his hemoptysis, diaphoresis, and hematemesis, were checked, and every symptom of asthmatic relieved. In a few days he recovered his strength, and although he has taken no other medicine and always been before subject to these complaints, he has had no return of them since.

Could we produce a hundred such cases we should say the cobweb is an invaluable remedy. It certainly proved so in the one we have related, and this ought to recommend it to the attention of the faculty.

DELIRIUM TREMENS.

Chorea is said to be effectively cured by shaving the head, and applying the tartar emetic ointment freely. We have tried this remedy in delirium tremens, and in seven out of eight cases it has succeeded beyond our expectations.

REPORTS.

CASE OF ENLARGED OVARIUM.

Communicated for the Medical Intelligencer.

BY JOHN WALLACE, JUN., ESQ. OF MILFORD, N. H.

The disease began with pain and enlargement in the region of the left ovary, about eight years previous to the death of the patient, and regularly progressed several years, when the left side began to swell, with increased pain in the region. She sought the advice of a physician in Boston, where she resided a part of the time, and took the usual remedies prescribed in such cases. She removed to Baltimore, and consulted several physicians in that city, but received no relief. She then returned to Milford, N. H. and was under my care for several months. Her bulk gradually increased till it became monstrous enlarged. I believe her physicians were satisfied that her disease was a miraculous enlargement of the ovary. The case was more than eight years in progression, and she died in August, 1854, apparently from suffocation. During the last months of her life, there was evident fluctuation in the abdomen.

The body was examined in presence of Drs Adams and Kittredge, of Mt Vernon, Dr Hills, of Amherst, myself, and several medical students. The abdominal viscera were generally in a natural state, but two substances of a globular appearance occupied the abdomen, which were found to be the right and left ovaria.

From the Baltimore Gazette.

HYDROPHOBIA.

The patient who labored under this disease was a colored boy (Moses Hinson) aged 11 years, and resided about three miles from the city. He was bit in the foot by a dog raised as a pet by him. On the night succeeding the bite the dog ran off, which excited suspicions of his being mad; medical aid was procured; the wound being slight it soon healed; the boy was then put on a mercenary course, and was supposed to be out of danger. After the dog had bit the boy, he bit several animals, all which subsequently went mad and died. About four weeks after the boy was bit, his foot began to swell and became painful, and on usual domestic remedies being used, the swelling subsided, the foot appeared to be perfectly well. However, on Sunday, 4th December, about seven weeks after the bite, the boy had a chill and complained of great latitude and constant chilliness, so that he kept close to the stove during that day. On Monday he walked several miles; when he returned, to use his own words, he was "chilled through and through;" his mother gave him some warm toddy, which appeared to compose him. It was at this time distinctly seen, that, although he drank with apparent pleasure, at each effort to swallow there was a spasmodic affection of the throat, which continued to increased, and on Tuesday he positively refused to take any kind of fluid. On that day he took some purgative medicine, which operated freely, but he continued to grow worse; and on Wednesday, the fourth day after the first evident chill, I was invited to take charge of the case; I consented on condition that Dr Arthur Poe of this city should be asked in consultation; my terms were complied with and the Doctor kindly consented to take share in the responsibility. We visited the boy and found him laboring under the following symptoms—he complained of choking and soreness of the throat, violent pain in the breast and constriction of the chest, pulse quick, frequent and feeble, great disposition to urinate, though voiding but a few drops at a time, and from which he was con-
stantly retiring while passing it. So great was his horror of water, or indeed of any fluid, that the thought of it could not be endured by him, and every attempt to make him drink, or even to mention the subject, produced strong impressions. He did not complain of the bitten part, and on examination it appeared to be perfectly sound; he was extremely impatient at the approach of any person, and said he felt as if he should suffocate if more than two or three were in the room at the same time, and he became greatly agitated either on hearing the hatch of the door moved, or the voice of any person without, and endeavored to retreat to the far end of the room. The glands under the tongue were as large as hazelnuts and more than we could have expected to have found them, for the whole system seemed to have suffered greatly in the attack. After the examination we were perfectly satisfied that the disease was not only a genuine case of hydrophobia, but that it was in its most aggravated form. We determined, from the success that attended the administration of Goulard's solution (a solution of lead) in a case reported in the Baltimore Gazette, to give eight drops every thirty minutes. We saw him 5 o'clock, P. M. (Wednesday) and notwithstanding the pain it gave him to swallow fluids, he made the most many efforts, and succeeded in taking the medicine, and by the next morning, he had taken two ounces of it—5 o'clock, A. M. (Thursday) all the symptoms were mitigated. He could take two pint cups and pour tea from one to the other without suffering any unpleasant feelings, and could drink with a very slight convulsive effort; the pain and constriction of the breast and soreness of the throat were much better; he conversed pleasantly and rationally, being quite an intelligent body of his age. We ordered the medicines to be continued, (there was unfortunately four hours lost from the quantity given out during the night) under the strong impression that it would be successful from the improvement of the symptoms which had already followed its administration, having however at the same time our fears that should there be a return of the spasms, with any violence in his enfeebled state it would be fatal, and too true were our fears, for he died about 5 o'clock, P. M. (Thursday) in a most violent convulsion. The patient expired, leaving the salver flung from his mouth, not in a stream, but in large quantities—I was going to say in a convulsed state, approaching nearly to the consistency of the white of an egg, and in appearance not unlike curdled milk.

Remarks.—From the success which attended the administration of the solution of lead in England, we gave it with full confidence of success, and we are justified in the belief that it would have been successful, from the great benefit which followed its use, even in this, the last stage of the disease, if there had been strength of constitution enough left to have borne up under the violent spasms, and there does not appear to be a doubt remaining, that if the medicine had been given fourteen hours sooner the patient would have recovered.

I am sure that I am not too bold, when I go so far as to encourage the public, if unfortunately another case should occur, to commence and give ten grains of sugar of lead every thirty minutes, the effect of this being the same as that of Goulard's solution, and it being preferable, as the strength of the litter is far less certain. The object in giving this remedy is to paralyze the system, and thus to overcome the fear of the animal, and eventually to produce some sensation of one of the stomach, which might excite some of the medical gentleman should be procured, to guard and keep in check the effects of the remedy, which is at times easy to be kept under control.

N. S. BARR.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

NEW PARACELS.

Once, at a certain watering place, To flatter a beauty, love and grace, To subject and charm, and dance and dash, And freely spend their time and cash;

To gain new health, or drown old care, No matter which, or when, or where, The name of a Triumphant Grace. Amongst the rest, with powers creative, Of course the man was not a native, A strong and inventive wight appears, Who vanishes at the sight. Of every sick, by advertising, All airs to cure "By vaporizing." Gouts, rheumatism, fevers latent, By means of the vapor, can be sent and which, for sending vapors forth, He rightly named a "Vapor Bath." The crowds attend, the vapor mill Pradesh a hilly; Old Grull can walk, no longer busy, Thanks to the steam of "Lignum Vitae," Miss Wild is tamed, Ben Dismal brightness; Leave, lowered, and Cossack frighted; In fine, the miracles that he did.

Were great as ever Anna Lee did.

At last, an old notorious dash, Who had by far more health, than cash; And more the city shone, In Fashion's frolics, day or night, Great Maquay seeks, "Good health have I, Yet find the Vapor Bath would try; Now," said Mr. Mace, "the remedy I'll try.

What medicine will do for me?"

Oh! says the Doctor nothing posed, Your case, Sir, was in time disclosed, Here vanish at once the bath, and cast in A handful of Life Excruciating, Then came the patient, head and ears, To try the strength of poisons. All at once there was the grand 1st— Mortal lie the bath be put in, Life excruciating," all it left him.

ANOTHER VICTIM.—The Albany Daily Advertiser mentions the death of Capt. Gideon Deacon, of the town of Knox, aged 33, who perished under the high pressure of a convulsion, which apparently overcame him. When a physician was called, the back and sides of the victim were covered with blisters, and there was no doubt in the minds of those present that he was literally burnt to death, by means of hot stones, patent steam, &c.

FRENCH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.—At a recent sitting of the Academy of Medicine in Paris, magnificence, the small pox, and vaccination, were the chief subjects of discussion. Amongst other things, it is said, that a disease most fatal has occupied the minds of the French. Forty years have elapsed since the question was first submitted to the consideration of the Royal Society of Medicine. Of the four committees which were nominated to investigate it, three pronounced against the reality of the disease. At the sitting above alluded to, M. Mace proposed to the Academy to renew the consideration of the subject, which was adopted. The Academy generously appointed a commission to examine if it was desirable again to agitate the question. The cataract of the podalic small pox was the subject of this commission, and the report of it was favorable in favor of that invaluable discovery, the universal practice of which cannot be too strongly recommended.

NEW DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending March 3d; from the Health-Office Returns. —Ann Goddard, 39; Ann Goddard, 38; Ann Bradford, 61; Abigail Wetherell, 49. 27th.—Richard Chamberlain, 66; Judith Wolfe, 71. 26th.—Ebenezer Tuttle, 64; Elizabeth Rich, 4 mo. 27th.—Mosse Dunlap, 31; Wendell Boston, 19; Dr. B. Presby, 17; Mary Adams, 69; Mary C. Hower, 9 mo; William Blight, 94; Sarah Green, 75. March 1st.—Mary Field, 64; Hannah Ware, 83. 2d.—Catherine Dix; Patience Humphry, 32; Sarah Sheed, 24; Christian Brown; Levi Peters, 9 mo; Mrs. Anna Houston, 56; Charles W. Clarke, 3 mo; Samuel Foster, 79; Hannah Thayer, 94; James Rayner, 1; James Sanderon, 13; Thomas Entwistle, 83.

Consumption.—James Fizer, 2,—Appoxley, 1,—Infirmary, 3,—Rupt ure, 1,—Gravel, 1,—Fits, 5,—Long Fever, 1,—Fleuropey,—Suicide, 1,—Abscess, 1,—Old Age, 2,—Infantile, 1. City Poor, 2.

OUTBURN.—Died at Hanover, N. H. on Tuesday, Jan. 24th, Dr. Cyrus Hamilton, aged 61, much lamented as an affectionate husband and father, a good Physician, and useful member of society.

His disease was Paralysis of the lower extremities. In apparent health while with a patient in Hanover, he had a cough to visit a child about 40 rods distant; when within the house the patient was seized suddenly with weakness and numbness of the lower extremities which did not much alarm him, but induced him to sit down. In a few moments this most excruciating pain succeeded. He was immediately conveyed to the house where he intended to visit, where, after lingering two days in extreme agony, he expired.

Dr. Hamilton was a native of Brookfield, Mass. He was actively and usefully employed in the practice of his profession in Lyme and its vicinity upwards of forty years.—Communicated.

ATHENEUM:

O, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINE.

FOR MARCH 1,

JUST published by John Cotton, No. 184, Washington Street, corner of Franklin-Street.


This Day Published.

BY WELLS & LILLY, THE STUDY OF MEDI-


This has a great advantage over other American editions. It is printed from a new and improved edition, but lately published by you, containing the author's latest improvements and alterations, which are numerous and extensive. It contains at least one fourth more matter, and likewise marginal references—and the form of the work is very different. These marginal references are a great convenience, as the book is one of constant reference to the practitioner. The publishers are thus minute, because a new edition has appeared, which is only a revision of the old, and the character of the Author. The Study of Medicine having been extensively circulated, it is presumed that the physicians are now fully convinced of its superior merits, and of the high literary and scientific character of the Author. Those who have examined the works nothing need be said in its condemnation—it speaks sufficiently its own praise. To others, the fact that this is a fourth edition, (all in the country for years,) must be considered a proof that the work is one of an ordinary standard. It is, to use the words of an eminent Physician of our own country, a work "which will be read and admired so long as Medicine shall be studied as a science."
OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE DIGESTIVE PROCESS.

When Voltaire wished to consult one of the King's physicians, he proposed the following question:

"- - - Par quel secret mystère Ce pain, cet aliment dont mon corps digérè Se transforme en un lait doucement préparé?"

Comment, toujours filtré dans ses vases certaines, En longs raisonneaux de pourpre il court enfuir ses veines?

To which he obtained no other answer than the following:

Demandez-le, à ce Dieu qui nous donne la vie.

Voltaire did not receive himself when he wrote this; the question remained unanswered in his time, but can it be satisfactorily answered in our own? Why not? ask the experimental physiologists, who make rabbits digest their food by a current of electricity. Why not? ask the chemists, who decompose with accuracy all the fluids of the body, and all its tissues. If digestion be only a separation of the nutritive material from such as is not, it is a chemical operation, and we come back to the opinion of the ancients, which supposed the stomach to be only the grand alemic of the body. It was a consciousness of the obscurity in which the subject remains even at the present day which induced the Royal Academy of Sciences to propose, as a prize question, the following: "To determine, by a series of chemical and physiological experiments, what the phenomena are which occur in the digestive organs during the act of digestion." In order to pursue the mode of investigation as dictated by the Academy, several experiments were instituted by Prevost and Le Royer of an interesting character, the substance of which is as follows:

By digestion is understood that alteration which the alimentary canal produces on the ingesta, an alteration in virtue of which the nutritive principles which they contain are extracted and so modified, as to repair the daily waste that takes place in the body. The ruminating animals, by the division of their stomach into four distinct parts, present good opportunities for appreciating the successive changes which take place in the aliment by which they are nourished, and the sheep was chosen by the above physiologists as the subject of their experiments. "The alimentary bolus, after having been chewed and blended with saliva, passes by the esophagus into the first stomach, a large cavity, which occupies the greatest part of the left side of the abdomen. The internal surface of this reservoir is furnished with numerous papillae, formed by the inner tunica; they appear to be formed of delicate epidermis, which is easily separated. This stomach communicates freely with the second, which, from its resemblance to a bonnet, is called in French bonnet; this is situated to the right of the esophagus, and here the villous thicken presents numerous large folds. The food in the bonnet appears less solid than in the kerbier, or first stomach. It is from this stomach that the food is regurgitated to the mouth, and after having been again well chewed, it forms a kind of paste, which passes directly by the esophagus to the third stomach, or to the feuillet, through an opening on the cardiac side of the first stomach.

The contents of the first and second stomach are alike, although the matter is generally more fluid in the latter. The triturated mass which they contain is called alkaline, and contains soda, which becomes after a time saturated with the salivary juices, and by the secretion of the two first stomachs. The matter contained in both was mixed together, and the juice expressed in such a way as to be free from impurities, and a solid residuum. The liquid being boiled, to produce the separation of the allumun, was afterwards evaporated to dryness. This residue was treated with hot water; the coagulated alumnum was not dissolved; the other waters were then filtered and examined. During their evaporation a pelicle formed on the surface, which redissolved by agitation the fluid, as gelatine has been observed to do in similar cases. The fluid thus being set aside, when cold, was found like a jelly. This being evaporated until it assumed a brown color, had a vitreous appearance. Many of the characters of gelatine were to be found in the fluid. It was insoluble in alcohol or ether; soluble in cold water, and also in hot. The mineral acids, as sublimates, did not precipitate it from cold water, but when these gases were added to a boiling solution of this matter, it formed flocculi, which afterwards redissolved, and the liquid lost its power of forming a jelly when cold. The portion of the insoluble residue was coagulated, alumnum, with a little mucus, which was easily separated by acidulated water.

These experiments, and many others of a similar nature, which do not require to be enumerated, led to the opinion that the nutritive elements of the elementary mass are, 1st. Alumnum, which is extracted and retained in solution by the saliva, and certain juices proper to the animal; 2d. That the jelly, the properties of which have been already described, indicates a greater quantity of mucus.

The third stomach was next examined; its cavity is lined with numerous folds of the villous membrane; the folds are thin, large, and lying in juxtaposition, just like the leaves of a book, and these compress strongly the alimentary matter which is carried there. The fluid which the triturated mass contains, is thus separated and conveyed into the fourth stomach, or the chymus. This fluid, when it arrives there, undergoes a remarkable change, it is no longer alkaline, but acid, and it precipitates a white opaque substance, which is the chyme. All its characteristics show that it is almost pure albumen. Submitted to the action of cold or boiling water, it does not dissolve either in one or the other; it appears, however, to be a little hardened by the action of the latter. It is very soluble in the alkalies, but insoluble in the mineral acids or alcohol. The chyme, and the other part of the masticated mass, are carried into the duodenum from the feuillet, and then come in contact with the alkaline secretions of the liver and pancreas. The chyme is then changed into a globulous emulsion, and the albuminous matter which may have remained in the vegetable matter is extracted whilst it passes through the course of the intestines. The absorbent vessels take up the nutritive matter as it is exposed to them, and convey it to the thoracic duct, and by it to the sanguinous system.

Having thus traced the progress of the phenomena principally observed in the digestive process, let us endeavour to explain the manner in which they take place. The soda, which is found in the two first stomachs, extracts from the vegetables the albumen, and converts a part of it into a jelly, as the following experiment will show. The whites of eggs, deprived of their investing membrane, were collected, to which a solution of caustic, or pure soda, was added, the mixture was well made, and then allowed to remain in contact with the external air, when it became a transparent but yellowish jelly; in twenty-four hours the jelly became again fluid. Exposed to a moderate fire it became brown; several transparent and insoluble crusts formed in it, and when ceased to appear, the fluid was poured out. The fluid was again concentrated, the precipitated parts again redissolved, and the jelly thus formed was in every respect similar to what had been before extracted from the vegetable matter treated with alkali. The albumen in solution in the fourth stomach, exhibits a free acid, which Pront has mistaken for the hydrochloric acid. The existence of this acid is essential to digestion in all the vertebrated animals, and without it the globules of the chyme could not be formed.

We have endeavoured, say MM. Prevost and Royer, to discover in what part of the stomach this acid is secreted, or formed in animals having only one stomach. After having emptied the stomach of a rabbit, and having several times injected a solution of soda to neutralize whatever acid might have been there, we introduced a bit of linen, made blue by a vegetable solution. After allowing it to remain there for six hours, it was found more red toward the lesser or pyloric extremity of the stomach than any other. We know that the structure of this part of the stomach is very different from the cardiac, and this experiment being often repeated showed clearly it was at this part of the stomach that the acid-secretion took place. The same thing has been shown analogically in the fourth stomach of the sheep, and it is the little stomach, or the ventriculus succinicurn," exercises a similar function.

It became then an interesting point to know, what influence the eighth pair of nerves exerted over the secretion of this acid; they were divided, the blue linen was still reddened, but to a less degree than before, which showed that the influence of the nerves was trifling only. In recapitulation it will be observed,

1st. That the process of digestion is an alteration in the state of the alimentary purely chem-
CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LUNGS.

Chronic inflammation of the substance of the lungs frequently arises and terminates usually either by paralyzation of the lung, or by chronic ill-conditioned abscess of the lung. In the first stage, it is denoted by a hard, firm, grainy sort of cough, the noise of which is limited, as it were, to the limited circumscribed space in the chest. On the application of heat over the part, the respiratory murmur is either not heard at all or it is very indistinct. The expectoration is scanty and tenacious, in small patches of mostly yellowish mucus for some time; the pulse is quickening, the respiration heavier or more compressed than natural, though the patient coughs, yet in such examples pain is often absent. Where the paralytization takes place extensively, the breathing becomes more and more oppressed until at last it is exceedingly difficult; but where suppuration occurs, the patient expectorates pus, and the case goes on much in the same manner as tubercular phthisis. But the anatomical difference between these affection is this, that in common chronic inflammation no tubercles are found in the lungs.

Dr. Armstrong thinks this is a distinction which even the accurate Laennec has overlooked, for he considers most of these cases which Laennec has designated by a simple inflammation of what he calls tubercular matter as occurring from chronic inflammation in the substance of the lung, so modified by the condition of the patient that the guaiacum test gives the curdy or ill-conditioned character.

In the first stage of chronic inflammation of the substance of the lung, Dr. Armstrong recommends bloodletting, rest in bed, a sparse diet, and aperients; and when the affection is attended by suppuration, he recommends rest in bed, a regulated temperature, an abstinence diet, together with the use of digitalis, so as to reduce the pulse to the natural standard.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

Dr. Armstrong remarks, that pulmonary consumption is most common in individuals under twenty-five years of age, but that he has seen many cases between that age and thirty-five, and several at a much later period of life than the last mentioned. He considers the delicacy of young persons as the cause by which they are most prepossessed, and observes, that two circumstances are almost always found to occur in the production of pulmonary consumption, namely, a breaking way of the general strength, and the application of what is called cold, under that condition of the body. He addsuces several cases in proof of this assertion, some of which arose in this manner from copious bloodletting, some from exposure, some from mental anxiety, some from exertion, some from night-watching, some from eating of cold food, and others from the like occasions.

He says that the same reasoning is applicable to the production of the disease in the lower animals, for that sheep, young horses, and rabbits, being badly fed and exposed to cold at the same time, are apt to become consumptive. Dr. Armstrong considers this subject as one of the highest importance to society in a preventive point of view, and especially in those families in which the tendency to consumption hereditarily prevails; for he contends that this complaint may be prevented in such families by maintaining the general strength through a nutritious diet and other alimentary points, and by giving tone to the surface of the body, first by tepid and next by cool soothing or ablation: but in the variable climate he strongly recommends the use of this linseed, even in summer, and of more hypothermic, in the winter and spring, next the surface, where the least suspicion of, or tendency to phthisis existed. The development of phthisis, according to his observation, is always preceded by some change in the functions of the skin, which becomes more tender than natural, and by some conscientious irritation of the internal mucous membranes, especially of the intestinal canal and of the bronchial passages; but he admits that the local irritation which precedes the attack is occasionally in the pleura or lungs.

Dr. Armstrong speaks in strong terms against the empirical use of mercury in the British metropolis for many supposed hepatic or ductious affections, and is fully confident, that by breaking up the general strength, and by disordering the functions of the skin, it is a very common cause of inducing phthisis, aided by the operation of our changeable climate. The first indication of these phthisis will be a greenish discoloration found in a post-mortem delicate hue of the skin, attended by a slight cough, loss of flesh, some diminution of strength; some degree of shortness of breathing, and losing exercise, a pulse somewhat accelerated with a bright or glossy appearance of the eye. The cough gradually increases, the patient becomes liable to slight chills occasionally, the skin grows more delicate, the eye become brighter, the nights less tranquil, and perspiration appears towards morning, while an insidious fever, which at length becomes of such a degree, now evidently tends the progress of the complaint. Though the expectoration has for some time been merely mucous, about this period it becomes purulent and peculiar. It is generally spit up in small patches, which float in water, something like a cockle, while the air-bubbles in it are entire; but when they burst, it sinks to the bottom, and between it and the surface so small opaque points, like pin's heads, are seen to be floating in the fluid. The patch itself, when examined, Dr. Armstrong says, generally consists of a little loose pus, and thirdly of curdy cloudy white matter, which is coagulable lymph of an ill-conditioned kind. This conjunction Dr. Armstrong considers as characteristic of tubercular phthisis, with the single exception, that he has found the same sort of expectoration from the common ill-conditioned ulceration of the lungs before described.

When the hectic is once established, pulmonary consumption goes on progressively, terminating more rapidly in young than in old persons, and the consumption takes place at a more or less accelerated pace, the length of time of the attack, and then the disorder in them sometimes takes a very rapid course indeed.

The immediate cause of consumption is the formation and development of what are called tubercles in the lungs. The tubercles are sometimes implanted like seeds, hereditarily in the lungs, and are not actively developed till the causes concur which are before specified; but in the greater number of instances, Dr. A. believes that tubercles are actually formed by breaking up the general strength, which tends to that morbid condition of the skin and mucous membranes so favorable to the operation of cold producing tubercles in the lungs, or other parts of the body. In contradiction of this view, Dr. A. remarks that he has, in examinations after death, generally found tubercles in the bodies of those children who have been emancipated in London from improper food, confinement, and climate. Much as he admires some parts of the French pathology, much as he admires the manner with which the physicians of that country record symptoms and make dissections, it nevertheless appears to him that there is one very great defect, namely, that they come to the ultimate effect, too frequently, without a sufficient consideration of the circumstances which precede that effect. A mistake, a very serious mistaken of that kind, he says, has been committed by Laennec, who, for instance, fixed the attention at once upon the actually existing tubercles, not being aware of those circumstances by which they are either actively developed, or really formed ab origine.

The practical mischief of such a pathology is great, because it leads to the idea that consumption and other tubercular affections may be generally prevented from occurring at all.

The prevention, then, of consumption, is the first consideration, and that is to be effected by the measures to which he has already alluded. When consumption is threatened, while the tubercles are yet in a miliary state, on becoming crude or enlarged, he believes, from extensive experience, that the affection at that early period, may very frequently be arrested by rest in the redundant posture, by a regulated temperature, by a milk and barren diet, by an occasional mild aperient, and, by the exhibition of digitalis, to reduce the morbid condition of that organ, and keep it there for some time. With regard to the confirmed stage of consumption, when the tubercles have become softened, when the expectoration bears the peculiar character before described, and when the hectic has become marked, he has reason, too much reason to conclude, that the affection will be most frequently fatal when under every mode of treatment; yet, within the last six years, he has attended several such cases, some of which have been the latter two years, much encouragement of the means before described, as compared to the first stage, sometimes aided by tepid or cool ablations. The efficacy, Dr. A. says, does not lie in any of these measures singly em-
ployed, but in the diligent conjunction of the whole.

In the last stage of phthisis, chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the lower part of the spleen, and of the upper part of the colon, almost invariably takes place, and in fatal cases is generally conjoined with ulceration. Even the simple inflammation sometimes is aggravated when the digitation, unless combined with a little balsam, which usually prevents it from exciting or increasing any intestinal irritation. This inflammation and subsequent ulceration is the cause of colliquative diarrhea which takes place towards the close of phthisis, and which is best obviated by occasional leeching over the abdomen, by a proper diet, and by minute doses of cold-drawn castor oil, combined with a little opium.

Dr Armstrong finally speaks of scrofula in general, which he considers first to consist in the formation of tubercles, and secondly in ill-conditioned inflammation, which may take place without any tubercles at all. He considers, and addsuce some facts to show, that tubercles sometimes arise independently of inflammation, but allows that inflammation in any adjacent structure is sometimes the cause of exciting them, such as inflammation of the bronchial or intestinal lining, particularly where the general strength has been greatly reduced at an early age. Dr A. remarks, that tubercles, in their origin, are sometimes vascular, as may be easily seen by examining them through a good glass; but he is satisfied that this is not always the case, having often found them solid and opaque, when they are merely minute points. He considers the miliary tubercle, as Laenec has done, the seed, or embryo of the crude tubercle, and suspects that the latter is softened by an inflammatory process. The ill-conditioned inflammation, which is imperfect in all its stages, and which is one modification of what is so vaguely termed scrofula, chiefly owes its character either to hereditary or to acquired delicacy of the system, and frequently the cause is unknown, by restoring the general health, through the removal of whatever local affections may exist and these local affections are most frequently to be found in some faultiness of the surface and internal mucous membranes.

DROPSY.

SANITIVE INFLUENCE OF NATURE IN THIS DISEASE.

The power of the natural constitution to resist this complaint is truly wonderful. Many remedies are in our possession, which, if administered early and skillfully, before the disease, on the one hand, has become permanent, or the system, on the other, been enervated by blood-letting, exert an influence over local affections, sufficient often to effect their removal. But there are cases in which all these remedies prove unavailing, and in which, when hope itself seems to have faded entirely, the constitution is seen to rise superior to all art, and teach us its wonderful power by emancipating itself from the shackles of disease, and resuming its free and healthy action. Such cases ought to make us aware of the importance of preserving this power unimpaired, and warn us of the danger of those means of depletion which are too much the fashion in the treatment of dropsies, and which cannot but give an advantage to the disease, by diminishing the power on which, after all, we must rely chiefly for its removal.

A case in point occurred to us some years ago; we will relate it by way of illustration. The patient was about four years old, and sick about five months. There was sufficient evidence that she was not troubled with worms; the case was a genuine hydrophalus [dropsy of the head]. This little girl would sit in her chair from morning till night, place her hands on the arms of it, and move her body backward and forward, see-saw, without ceasing. She neither smiled nor spoke—though no notice of what was going on around her, and would neither eat or drink except the small quantity of light food which was forced down her throat. The pupils were permanently dilated—her countenance was pale and anxious—the pain in the head was constant and violent; but the abdominal vesica were in no way deranged. This was her situation for several weeks, during which time many plans of treatment were successively pursued, without affording any relief. At length she became so much diseased that she could not rise from her bed. L' tte hope was entertained of her recovery either by ourself or the consulting physician, who agreed with us in the opinion that it was a case which allowed no further medical interference. After remaining long in this hapless state, the whole body became covered with fine white vesicles, which receded and returned occasionally for some weeks; her appetite began to return: the pupils became less dilated; she seemed to notice those around her; gradually recovered her strength and health; and is now as fat and healthy a child as is to be seen in her neighbourhood.

In the former part of this picture many a physician and many a mother will recognize a scene that has caused the most agonizing grief; and if, in the treatment of these cases, such remedies as blood-letting and others equally calculated to diminish the natural stamina, were more generally avoided, the physician and the mother would recognize in its sequel, a part of the scene to which they are too often strangers.

We do not intend to say that cases of hydrophalus should be left entirely to the vic medicatrix nature [the healing power of nature]. On the contrary, there are few diseases which require so active and judicious treatment. No moment should be lost in administering such internal and external remedies as are best adapted to the case. Our remarks are made to show that as there is a dependance which may sometimes relieve when medicine fails, an eye should be kept to this throughout the whole treatment, and such means be resorted to as are calculated to attack the disease most actively, without impairing the general strength. This dependence is to be regarded in dropsical affections particularly, since they are so slow in their progress, and continue so long, and since so many cases have come to us, in which the powers of nature have been effectual in removing the disease.

AFFECTIONS OF THE BRAIN.

There are many cases on record of chronic and subacute inflammation of the brain, and of organic disease of this organ, from which it appears it is difficult if not impossible to fix upon any general principles, or to refer the particular character of the symptoms to the precise nature and seat of the disease, and that the subject in this respect is involved in much obscurity. Tumors, for example, have been found in some cases to occupy different parts of the brain, sometimes of large size, accompanied by any remarkable symptom. While in other cases tumors in the same situation were accompanied by blindness, convulsions, or palsy. It does not appear that these diversities de-

pend upon the size of the tumors, or, as far as is known, upon their particular structure; but these points remain to be investigated, particularly what diversity of symptoms are connected with low inflammatory action in the substance of the brain or its membranes, the growth and nature of tumors, and especially with their character, as being tumors distinct from the mass of the brain, or as being indurations of part of the brain itself.

Many of these cases seem to favor the doctrine which has been proposed in regard to pressure on the brain.

It has been contended, that causes which are supposed to act in this manner, produce their effects, not by compression of the brain, but by their influence upon the blood-vessels, in destroying that relation between the arteries and veins, which in an organ so closely confined in a cavity of bone, must be essential to a healthy state of the circulation. In regard to the treatment of these affections, there is little to be said. We ought not, however, always to consider them as hopeless; for by pursuing a judicious course there is reason to believe that their progress may at least be impeded, and the life of the patient prolonged as well as rendered more comfortable. The treatment consists in attention to the bowels, a regular diet, cold applications to the head, issues or ecchymosis in the neck, and avoiding all causes of excitement.

We copy the following judicious and well timed relation, from the Providence Journal. "In the process for curing the influenza, the author recommends powerful antimonials, emetics, calomel, salts, bitters, diffuents, and venesection—at the same time adding, very consistently, "It ought to be recollected that the disease is caused by miasmata, and that most diseases from this source do not admit of excessive depletion."
The following, however, is a correct and interesting history of the recent

EPIDEMIC CATARRH, OR INFLUENZA.

This disease has at times prevailed from the remotest antiquity; and has been known as the most widely extended epidemic of any recorded in history, oftentimes spreading itself over every part of the habitable globe. This year we have of it is recorded in Homer's Iliad, and subsequently it has been known and described by physicians from the time of Hippocrates to the present day.

Homer attributes its origin to the wrath of Apollo, and its being sent among the Greeks at the siege of Troy, by the "God of the silver bow," as a punishment for their criminal detention of the daughter of Chyrses, the priest of Phæbus. In latter times the Italians have believed it to originate from the influence of the stars, and hence the name of influenza. But, aside from astrological fiction, and the errors of astrologers, the most scientific, observing and sensible physicians are opinion, that it owes its origin to Merth Miasmata,—[contagious exhalations,] or the Mal Arid of the Italians; of this belief was the immortal Sydenham, and in confirmation of this opinion it has been observed from time immemorial, that brute animals, who hold their heads nearer to the earth than man, are first affected with the malady. Hence Homer observes,

"On dogs and mules the infection first began, And last the vengeful arrows lodged in man."

That the miasmata may be intimately combined with the carbonated hydrogen of moist
The operation was performed without the least difficulty; and as soon as three charges of the syringe, or 6 ounces of blood, had been injected, the woman, who was a native of the sister kingdom, exclaimed, "By Jove, it is strong as a bull." The syringe was reemployed several times, and upon the whole, four or five ounces of blood were injected. Mr. Dooly then very judiciously discontinued the injection as the patient began to experience a slight pain in her head. It was apparent to everybody that she was recovering well enough to get up and walk. Not one bad symptom has supervened since the operation.

**Medical Jurisprudence.**—The long and glaring omission of this branch of professional education is at length becoming in a great measure supplied by lectures upon this subject at our principal medical institutions. Glazing as the peculiarities and deficiencies of medical witnesses have been in a large degree corrected, at the request of the legislative body, the members of the faculty are by no means the only parties interested in this study. Besides gentlemen of the law, who are more directly concerned in the conduct of causes depending for their issue on scientific testimony, the great body of householders (who, in their capacity of jurors, are continually sitting as judges of such facts,) might find their account in giving a share of their attention to these topics.

To Correspondents.—Dr. Wilson's communication has been received, and shall be published, with his drawing, next week.

**Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston.**

End of March 10; from the Health-Office Returns.

March 3d.—Ois F. Redford, 3; Nancy Madden, 4th.; John C. Freeman, 5th.; Reuben S. Abbott, 9 mo; Jane Philpot, 9; Son of James Class 14 4.; Rebecca Coolidge, 63. 6th.—Maria Sophia Wills, 19; Sarah J. Robinson, 30; Harriet E. Tufts, 16 10.; Darius Morton Baxter 5 mo; Lucietta M. Morrison, 3; Margaret Dorothy, 3; Daughter of James Dexter, 4 5th. 7th.—Mary Mitchell, 86; Mary Cogin, 29; Mary Bird, 84; Landham A. Maxwell, 36; Nancy H. Kimball, 26; James Mclntyre, 59; Elizabeth Thayer, 66. 8th.—Harriet Francis, 56; Samuel Blagge, 64; Benj. H. Haynes, 31; Dolly Stephens, 57. 9th.—George K. Pomroy, 23; Barth. McGowan, 37; Catharine E. W. Bassett, 6; James Simmons, 29. 10th.—Ebenzer Frothingham, 45.

Hooping Cough, 1—Inflammation in the Chest, 1—Cancer, 1—Sciurous of the Menses, 1—Inflammation in the Bowels, 2—Pneumonia, 1—Infantile Fits, 1—Dropsey, 3—Cramp in the Stomach, 1—Old Age, 3—Inflammation in the Brain, 1—Influenza, 1—Dropsey in the Head, 1—Consumption, 7—Fever, 2—Stillborn, 3. City Poor, 1.

This Day Published.


This has a great advantage over other American editions. It is printed from a new and improved edition, but lately published in London, containing the additions made in the Bowels, 2—Pneumonia, 1—Infantile Fits, 1—Dropsey, 3—Cramp in the Stomach, 1—Old Age, 3—Inflammation in the Brain, 1—Influenza, 1—Dropsey in the Head, 1—Consumption, 7—Fever, 2—Stillborn, 3. City Poor, 1.

**For the Medical Intelligencer.**

Mr. Editor—l read with no small satisfaction your denunciation of Quack Medicines, which of late mark and disgrace so much and so many of our professional men. It is in general a dangerous and dishonorable traffic, especially in those who use the basis mercury, artifically disguised. They ruin the constitutions of multitudes of our young men who take them under every disguising of exposure to weather, and of improper diet, and destroy not a few. Besides these pernicious effects, many of their advertisements are offensive to decency. "A certain remedy, &c." states readers of all descriptions in the face, with other indecencies. Many patients have banished some newspapers from their parlor on this account. William Cobett, alias Peter Porcupine, refused, with a commendable indignation, all such advertisements. I have several times spoken to different editors, for years past, on this disgraceful subject. But,—I found they were a very profitable species of advertisement, and paid for by the year.

There are some very good and safe patent medicines, that come from England, such as James' fever powder and some others; but here I beg leave to refer you to Dr. Williams' "Medical Achiever," with which I am an intimate friend, to which he gives the name of some respectable physician and rolls it, like a hand grenade among the most ignorant class of people. When a good, but secret form of medicine has acquired celebrity in France, their kings, on the examination and recommendation of the faculty, purchase the right for the benefit of the people. In England the letter patent for inventions, and medicines, are the perquisites of a certain Lord of the King's household, and great abuses are the consequence. But in the U. S. there is not even that right reserved, and all who are in the government has wisely avoided the English custom. We wish they would adopt that of France.

**Varieties.**

**EXTENDED TUMORS IN THE ABDOMEN.**—M. Andrè (fls) communicated to the Royal Academy of Medicine the following fact:—A man was admitted to La Charité with a tumor in the abdomen, filling both the thoracic and the abdominal cavities, so much so that he had felt dull pains in the right hypochondrium, and had jaundice. He died at the end of some time, having suffered by turns the symptoms of phthisis of enters, and peritonitis. On opening the body, tubercles were found in the lungs; a sero-purulent fluid, with false membranes, in the peritoneum; which were thick, containing miasma; besides the three following diseased appearances:—1. A tumor of the size of a full-grown fetus; situated between the right kidney and the concave surface of the liver: it appeared to have originated from the peritoneum; its parietes were fibrous, and it was filled with a purulent fluid, in the midst of which there were four or five ounces of our of ankydatic sac, in which hydatids had been successfully broken, destroyed, and replaced by pus. The tumor had displaced the liver in its concavity; and, in fact, all the right hypochondrium, filled the epigastrium, and formed a prominence on the left side; besides which, the right lobe of the liver, pressed by the tumor, had suffered a complete atrophy: whilst the left lobe had increased in a very unusual degree. 2. A second cyst, filled equally with broken hydatids, was situated on the course of the biliary vessels, and compressed them. Among other symptoms, the patient's eyes were white, and his hair black, as it is found in the thrombosis of the spinal vessels; the eye had increased the appearance of the primitive iliacs. This clot resembled those fibrous layers which fill the sac of aneurisms. The parietes of the vein had suffered a remarkable thickening, as the result of chronic inflammation: nevertheless, there was not any osme of the lower extremities.

Archibalds, August.

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CASE OF TRANSFUSION.**—Dr. Blundell, of London, has communicated another successful case of transfusion of blood into the veins. A woman had lost a large quantity of blood after labour; but, by transfusion, she was restored; and, in fact, all the symptoms, there was no probability that she could live more than three or four hours.
OBSERVATIONS.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS OF THE HEART.

Dr. Armstrong observes that chronic affections of the heart, like most others, may be divided into disorders and diseases. In disorders of the heart, its actions are merely disturbed, while its structure remains entire; but in diseases of the heart, something is subverted to, or taken away from its internal structure.

CHRONIC DISORDERS OF THE HEART.

Most of the chronic disorders of the heart proceed from excitement or depression, through mental emotions, great exercise, from copious losses of blood, from the long continued stimulation of mercury, or from disorder of the stomach, liver, and bowels. By mental emotions, or great exercise, the heart's action is frequently preternaturally excited or depressed, and sometimes rendered irregular; by copious losses of blood, increased action and palpitation are apt to be produced; by mercury, carried to ptyalism, its action is often excessively augmented; but in some instances it is depressed and irregular. By far the most common cause, however, of affecting the heart's action, is some disorder of the stomach, liver, or bowels. Disorder of the stomach affects the heart's action in four ways; sometimes it instantly suspends it, sometimes it greatly oppresses it, sometimes it renders it intermittent, and sometimes it makes it inordinate, so that the beats are quick at one time, and slow at another, or weak at one time, and strong at another. Dr. Armstrong adds several cases in illustration of each of these varieties, some of which arise from errors in the kind, others in the quantity of the diet, or the drinks. In some of these instances, not only the respiration, but the brain is remarkably disturbed. The pupils are cautioned against pronouncing hasty opinions about the existence of organic affections of the heart, when the tongue is furled, and the functions of the stomach, liver, and bowels, disordered. The cure of these examples is to be effected mainly by a proper regulation of the diet, and by mild aperients, with alkalis, where the stomach is the seat of the disturbance; but where the liver is torpid, the tepid bath, and an occasional mild aperient, are generally necessary, and when the colon is so overloaded as to occasion disturbance of the heart's action, then warm resinous purgatives, with cold-drawn castor oil, are generally the best remedies. But if disturbance of mind is connected with disorder of the heart's action, little good will be effected, unless that can be removed. When the affections have arisen from copious losses of blood, rest in a fresh atmosphere, a bland diet, with the employment of digitalis and opium, aided by a tepid or cool shower bath, are generally the best measures; and when the disturbance has been produced by mercury, if the heart's action is excited, rest, aperients, and a spare diet, are most to be depended upon; but in cases where the heart's action is depressed from mercury, then diffusible stimulants and free ventilation are necessary, so long as the depression continues.

CHRONIC DISEASES OF THE HEART.

Dr. Armstrong remarks, that what has been denominated by Hobeisen, who was a superlative pathologist, angina pectoris, cannot properly considered as one affection, since it arises from various causes. The symptoms are, a sudden sense of anguish in the region of the heart, a sense of stricture, or suffocation in the chest, an irregular pulse, attended by general distress, and, finally, by a pain shooting from the region of the heart down the left arm. These symptoms may arise first from mere disorder of the stomach, secondly, from disease about the heart, or large adjacent vessels, and, thirdly, from ossification of the coronary arteries; but he believes that the last mentioned cause is by far the most frequent. When this affection is merely functional, when it depends only upon disorder of the stomach, it will be removed with that disorder, but when it is organic, nothing can be done but to palliate the symptoms, by the most assiduous attention to diet, rest, and the regulation of mind. In most organic affections of the heart, patients must be contented to adopt a still mode and that, with a proper regimen in other respects, will not only protract their lives, but greatly diminish unweasness.

SIMPLE ENLARGEMENT, WITHOUT DILATATION.

The ankles are not often thus affected. The muscular substance of the heart is redder than natural, and the ventricle loses in size what it gains in thickness. The patient is liable to palpitations and dyspnea, there is more constant sensation of the heart's action than natural, and often swelling and pulsation of the external jugular veins. If Lennec's cylinder be applied, the impulse of the heart will be found stronger, and its sound duller.

ENLARGEMENT, WITH INCREASE OF THE CAVITIES.

This is generally called, but improperly, active aneurism. The heart's action is much stronger and more extended than natural, the pulse is remarkably hard and resisting, like paper cord, and the patient is liable, especially on mental agitation, strong exercise, or disturbance of the stomach, to attacks of palpitation and dyspnea. This affection occurs often in rheumatic subjects, and is sometimes connected with chronic inflammation of the pericardium, and sometimes with ossification of the valves.

DILATATION WITH THINNESS, AND OSSIFICATION OF THE VALVES.

Dilatation, with thinness, has been improperly called passive aneurism. The face is generally pale, the pulse feeble, and the patient is liable to palpitations, dyspnea, and fainting, especially on taking exercise, and even on going. On the application of the cylinder, there is less impulse than natural, with a clear and extended sound. Dr. Armstrong is confident that ossification of the valves may always be easily detected by the assistance of Lennec's instrument, for the sound is of the whizz-gig kind, or like the compression of a pair of bellows, a sound entirely different from that which exists in a healthy condition of the valves; while dyspnea on motion is almost always an attendant symptom. He thinks, that in all organic affections seated within the bag of the pericardium, the respiration is disturbed on motion, particularly on motion up stairs, or up a hill, and that the respiration soon becomes comparatively easy when the patient sits down.

Dr. Armstrong points out the palliative treatment proper for each of the foregoing affections, and recommends his pupils attentively to study the phenomena of organic diseases of the heart, since a knowledge of them will not only prevent them from making rash experiments, but enable them to render the patients much more comfortable, and also to lengthen their existence. He makes some observations on the occasions of organic affections of the heart, showing how they may be best remedied, and concludes by some summary remarks on simple dilatation of the arteries, and on aneurism.

SUMMER OR AUTUMNAL EPIDEMIC.

Examination of the Brain, and other important Viscera, by Dissection, in that form of Disease called the Summer or Autumnal Epidemic, or Fever Symptoms.

Communicated for the Medical Intelligence, by Dr. Wilson, M. D.

The symptoms in general, were very similar to those which attended this disease in 1818, 1819, 1820, and in 1822, (see Medical Intelligence, Vol. I. p. 81, 82, and 109;) except the affection of the brain has been more violent and general, the contumence in most cases more plicated, a sense of pressure of the brain more constant, attended with a remarkable disposition to sleep; intense inflammation of the mucous membrane, occupying the whole extent of the mouth, nose, and throat, &c. the confluence less yellow than in some of those years; and the tongue red and glossy, though at times dry and furred.

Particular symptoms of the case of Mrs. S., who died of the autumnal fever after an illness of about seven days, aged 35.—Mrs. S. as was the case in most instances, had complained of pain, pressure, throbbing, &c. of the head, attended with dizziness and confusion of thought; likewise a remarkable peneezness to sleep. I understood, when I saw her on the third day of the disease, that it was not violent in the first attack, after which she sunk to an alarming degree; the pulse small, weak, and flat, her eyes sunk in their orbits, the tongue dry and red, the extremities, nose, &c. cold; her right eye suffused with blood, and was affected more than the left. She retained her senses in a good degree for the most part till the last. The following questions were put to Mrs. S. at the time of my first visiting her: Question.—What were your feelings some time prior to your illness? Answer.—For several weeks prior to this illness, my head felt full and pressed, with throbbing and heat of the forehead, &c. confusion of thought, sleepiness, though at times wakeful. Question.—Can you discover objects distinctly? Ans.—I can. Answer.—How do they appear? Ans.—They appear to be turned up edgeways, and it appears to rain exceedingly hard. About
thirty-six hours after I first visited her, I asked her whether there was any alteration in the appearance of objects. She answered that there was then more room than formerly, that one person or thing could then pass another without interfering. She observed that sounds seemed very loud and piercing. She likewise observed that it seemed very hard, and that she loved to hear it; though it did not rain, the air was still, and nothing occurred to give any such idea, except the disordered state of her brain.

Mrs. S. died on the 30th day of Sept. 1825, and on the seventh of the disease. Permission being obtained, the brain was examined about five hours after death, and the outlines of the annexed drawing were taken at the time.

Fig. 1., represents the lower section of the skull; the upper part being removed, the brain covered with its membranes is brought into view. Fig. 2., the right hemisphere of the brain, covered with the dura mater. Fig. 3., longitudinal sinus, on the superior surface of which are several spots of a dark color. Fig. 4. and 5. likewise represent spots of inflammation of the dura mater, which penetrated the bone, and were plainly seen in the pericranium, though of a much lighter color. Fig. 10., represents the left hemisphere of the brain, the dura mater being removed. Fig. 6., shows a vein of the brain, enlarged, flaccid, and almost empty. Fig. 7., shows a vein with the appearance of ruptures at its junction with the artery, and slight extravasation of dark colored blood in the cellular texture, for a considerable distance; whether this extravasation was from rupture or exudation, I will not say; though from its quantity and consistence, it would seem it might be from the former; it was very unlike the appearance in the smaller branches of the arteries. Fig. 8., represents an artery as spread in the pia mater of the brain, all the smaller branches of which are very much distended, by the blood being driven into those minute vessels, which formerly only admitted colorless fluid; this, together with the exudation of some fluid, gave these vessels very much the appearance which they have in the blood-shot eye. Fig. 9., shows extravasations of blood lying in the forrows, on the surface of the brain, of which there were more than twenty, which contained the quantity of half a tea-spoonful each; the blood was of a dark color. All the arteries of the cerebrum and cerebellum, till you come to the corpus callosum, and central parts of the brain, had more or less the appearance of the artery, fig. 8. The veins, through many had the appearance as described, fig. 7, yet this was not uniformly the case. The corpus callosum, ventricles, &c. had a more healthy appearance; though the venae gali and its appendages showed some marks of disease. 

The case of H, who died of typhus fever, Dec. 4th, 1825, after an illness of three days, aged about 27. The appearance of the brain was very similar to the case described; except the central parts were as badly affected as the rest, water in the ventricles, &c. She was attacked with fever the evening of Dec. 2d, 1825, complained of pain in the left side of the neck and head, but had no medical assistance till the morning of the 4th, the night prior to which, after making some application to her head, she considered herself to be better, went to bed, and appeared to get some sleep; but before morning she lost her reason and speech. When I saw her on the evening of the 4th, all the senses were so materially injured, that she appeared to be in exercise of none, except that of smelling was not entirely destroyed; her pulse was small, frequent, weak, and flat, her countenance bloated and inexpressive, eyes, prominent, inflamed, and glaring, temperature below the healthy standard; though there is reason to believe, that prior to the injury done to the brain in the first paroxysm of reaction, that the heart was considerably increased. She died, on the evening of the fourth. On the sixth, permission being obtained, I examined the body, assisted by Dr. Siaha Merrill, the attending physician. On removing the scalp, there was a broad circle of inflammation affecting the pericranium, and extending from ear to ear, in the direction of the lambdoidal suture; there was likewise another in the direction of the coronal suture.

On opening the cranium, the same appearances were to be observed, affecting the brain and its membranes, as described in the preceding case; and further, the central parts were equally injured with the other parts, water in the ventricles, &c. On examining the thorax, the lungs discovered some traces of disease, which might have been occasioned in part from the affection of the brain; but no effusion, or extravasation in any part of the organ was to be observed. The heart was in a sound and healthy state, and so likewise was the liver, stomach, &c.

Physiological Inference.—In the last mentioned case, as the central parts of the brain were in a diseased state, the patient, as might be expected, lost almost all her faculties at once: viz. volition, recollection, perception, sensation, and perhaps even a consciousness of her existence; but in the case first described, though the change in her aspect was about as great, and the alteration as sudden, yet she retained all these faculties to a considerable degree.

Pathological Inference—As respects the difference, in the winter and summer, or autumnal epidemics. In the most usual form of the autumnal epidemic, as in the two cases described, the heart and lungs, as organs, performed their respective offices; consequently we find no real congestion in the brain; but in the most usual form of the winter epidemic, and especially where the lungs suffer, as there is an impediment to the free circulation of the blood, from the right ventricle of the heart, through the capillaries of the lungs, from their torpor, of course there will be an engorgement of the large veins, leading to the right auricle of the heart, and consequently venal congestion of the brain, &c.; hence the sudden deaths in this disease. (See Inquiry into the nature and treatment of Spotted Fever, note on p. 202.) The circulation of the blood from the right ventricle of the heart being impeded, by the debility of the capillaries of the lungs, a congestion of blood in the right ventricle of the heart must be the consequence, and likewise a congestion in the large veins; the effect of this congestion in the large veins near the heart, must operate most powerfully on the brain."

The heart, brain, and lungs, as organs, reciprocally affect each other, and to study the operation of each on the other, or others, is highly necessary to amount to the causes of either. An erect posture (or a position approaching towards it), when the strength and other circumstances of the patient will admit, will add very considerably to the curative means, which we may employ in diseases of the brain and lungs, and in some cases of the heart; and we should always avail ourselves of this advantage, when the circumstances of the patient will any way admit. So, likewise, is sound sleep, at proper times, a powerful means of removing all inflammation, and especially that of the brain, as it greatly diminishes the power of the heart; as in sleep the pulse are slower, and softer, the muscular fibres more relaxed, the countenance paler; as is observable in a remarkable manner in infants. It is rare that a patient recovers who has passed several nights without sleep, when labouring under high inflammation of the brain.

But what I am now about to observe, is more particularly applicable to the convalescent stage of high inflammation of the brain, or to the milder forms of cephalagia. To derive all the advantages from sleep, light, &c., in the chronic forms of headach, the patient should be careful to arise about ten or fifteen minutes before the rising of the sun (or earlier, as former habits may require), for this reason—sound sleep invigorates the system, and the muscular fibres now possess a power of contraction greater than usual; this appears to be particularly the case with the vessels of the brain. The heart likewise is invigorated, and if the patient lies long while awake, his position being horizontal, or nearly so, there is reason to believe that the vessels of the brain will be more distended, and that he will be more troubled with dizziness and headach through the day, than he would have been had he arisen in ten or fifteen minutes after he awoke. The stimulus of light, the recollection of sleep, &c. give the vessels a greater power to contract at this time, than at any other in the twenty-four hours; and especially when we consider that the heart will act with increased power on the brain, to obviate which, nature has wisely provided that the gravity of the blood should be opposed to the increased power of the heart. But should the patient have his head shaved, and about two quarts of cold water poured on it immediately before he
May you live a thousand years, is an Eastern salutation. Gentle reader,—to wish you so many would be fruitless; but if you have not deviated from, and will continue to follow our injunctions, we can safely promise you an hundred.

A QUERY.

We have recently seen a well authenticated case, detailed by Dr Stirpius Luscius, in a Journal of Medicine published in Holland, which the ingenuity of the faculty is called upon to explain. A woman about 50 years of age had all the symptoms of consumption. She was treated for this complaint, but without success. At length, in one of her fits of coughing, she coughed up a slice of beef bone which she recollected to have swallowed about eight months before while eating her soup. The emission of the bone was followed by a discharge of a pint and a half of purulent matter, and from that time is dated the period of her recovery which advanced with rapidity, and very much to the surprise and delight of her friends and no little to the astonishment of her learned physician, who proposes to the faculty the following question. — Where was this bone placed during the eight months?

Some of our transatlantic brethren are too fond of the marvellous. For our part we think it much more probable that the ulcer in the lung was attended with or perhaps caused by a slight caries of the internal portion of one of the ribs, and that when the exfoliated bone found its exit, the source of irritation was removed and the ulcer healed. The fact, however, is stated and the question proposed, as above, by the learned Physician of Rotterdam.

CONVALESCENCE.

Again and again we would caution the profession against a custom that prevails too commonly among us.—we might say universally. We mean the habit of leaving our patients in the moment their disease does, with the injunction—"take a little bark and be careful to use light nourishing diet, and you will soon recover." No period of disease is so fraught with danger as that of convalescence. How trifling an imprudence will induce relapse, and how often do relapses prove fatal? How many of the most painful and incurable complaints originate in debility—that debility which physicians seldom think worthy their notice.—Dr Armstrong says in his lecture on consumption, "two circumstances are almost always found to concur in the production of pulmonary consumption, namely, a breaking away of the general strength, and the application of what is called cold, under that condition of the body." He adds, several cases in proof of this assertion, some of which arose in this manner from copious bloodletting, some from spare diet, some from mental anxiety, some from over exercise, some from night-watching, some from disorders which interrupted the digestion, and others from the like occasions. He says that the same reason is applicable to the production of the complaint in the lower animals, for that sheep, young horses, and rabbits, being badly fed and exposed to cold at the same time, are apt to become consumptive. And most surely among the causes of disease among men what so frequent as debility? In every other country the faculty continue to devote themselves most assiduously to their patients until not only their malady but every symptom of weakness is conquered; and we do most ardently hope that the faculty in this country will improve these powerful means of preventing the inroads of disease.

OF SOME AFFECTIONS OF THE STOMACH.

BY DR BAILIE.

There is no complaint more common in this country than an imperfect condition of the functions of the stomach. This generally shows itself by more or less of flatulence, by acidity, by a bitter taste occasionally felt in the mouth, and often accompanied by a disagreeable feeling of fullness. This condition of the stomach generally arises from doing wrong in the quality or quantity of the food—from anxiety of mind—and from a due degree of exercise not being regularly taken. It makes its progress very gradually, continues always for some months, and often even, more or less, for years.

The first object of attention should be to remove, as far as possible, the causes which produce it. Every kind of food should be avoided which the patients may have found, from their own experience, to have disagreed with their stomach. Most commonly it is a food that is very fat, or much salted or fried, is difficult of digestion; and should either be eaten very sparingly, or, should be altogether avoided. Young and white animal food is in general more difficult of digestion than what is brown and of middle age. The vegetables which are eaten should be very well boiled, and should be taken sparingly by such persons as are subject to flatulence or acidity. The boiled potato is almost constantly difficult of digestion, and in general should be avoided altogether. There should never be so much food taken at a time as to give the feeling of fulness or distension in the stomach; and, except under very particular circumstances, there is no advantage in eating oftener than three or four times in twenty-four hours. The best common beverage in disordered conditions of the stomach is water, or toast and water; and three or four glasses of wine may be taken at or after dinner, according to the habits of the patient, or other circumstances.

This mince is that which is preferred which agrees best with the stomach of which he is himself the most competent judge. Daily exercise is almost constantly necessary in order to preserve good digestion. Riding on horseback is upon the whole the best, for it gives a motion to the abdominal viscera which no other exercise is capable of; but walking is also very useful. A combination of the two is preferable to either; for riding on horseback chiefly exercises the abdominal viscera, and walking chiefly exercises the limbs and the thoracic viscera. Anxiety of mind should be avoided, whenever it can fairly be done; but it is often impossible to take advantage of this remedy.

With respect to medicines, there are none in this complaint which can be called specific. The most beneficial, however, which I have known, are rhubarb, and some form of bitter medicine combined with alkalis. Eight grains of rhubarb formed into pills with soap, taken every night at bedtime, and some bitter, as infusion of cascara, quassia, or gentian, with some grains of soda or potash dissolved in it, taken in the morning and before dinner, would often be very useful in this kind of disordered stomach. These remedies should be continued for five or six weeks at a time, should be omitted for two or three weeks, and occasionally resumed. If the alvine evacuations should be consid-
erably lighter in their colour, or much darker than natural, mercury, given in moderate doses, and not for so long a time as to injure the constitution, will often be of great use. The large and indiscriminate employment of mercury in complaints of the stomach has, I think, been often very hurtful. When acidity has been particularly prone to prevent digestion, it is sometimes found more effectually corrected by the diluted mineral acids than by alkalis. Ten or twelve drops of the diluted sulphuric or diluted nitric acid, mixed with an infusion of some bitter, and taken twice a day, will sometimes be very beneficial in this condition of the stomach.

There is an affection of the stomach in which the digestion is very imperfect, and in which considerable quantities of a transparent viscid mucus are formed. This often produces nausea, and is occasionally brought on by vomiting. According to my experience, this condition of the stomach has frequently been little benefited by medicine; but sometimes I have found the tincture bezoars composita of considerable use. A dram of it may be taken, mixed with water, and some mucilage of gum acacia, three times a day.

There is another affection of the stomach, less common than the former, but far more serious,—viz., where the stomach throws up in large quantity a fluid like cocoa. A quart of this fluid will often be thrown up at a time, and this will frequently be repeated for many days together. This condition of the stomach is sometimes connected with a diseased state of the liver, but sometimes it is independent of it; there being, at least apparently, no disease in this latter organ. In several instances it has proved fatal; but in others, and especially in two cases which I recollect, the complaint subsided for several months at a time, and the patients are still alive. In one case I had an opportunity of examining the condition of the stomach after death. It was very capacious, and was half filled with this brown fluid, but did not appear to be at all diseased in its structure. The neighbouring viscera, as the liver and spleen, were (as far as I recollect) perfectly sound. The fluid would appear to be formed by a disease secreted of the inner membrane of the stomach, without any apparent morbid structure.

This disease, according to my experience, is but very little influenced by medicine or by diet. In two or three cases, some benefit seemed to be derived from the frequent use of combined or separate doses of opium,—as, for instance, from tincture of kino, or tincture of cachet, with a few drops of laudanum, taken three or four times a day. The bowels should be at the same time kept free from constipation.

In some cases the stomach will lose almost entirely the power of digestion; the patients will become pale and emaciated, and appear as if they were affected by some fatal visceral disease; at the same time no morbid structure in the region of the stomach or liver can be detected, by the most attentive examination. In some of these cases, the patients have been completely restored to health by a course of the Bath waters.

**VARIETIES.**

**Voluntary Breathing—may be made to quicken the Pulse and increase Animal Heat.**—According to the experience of a writer in the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," drugs being given, the stomach torpid, and the breathing feeble and languid, through deep thought, or through mental vacuity, or other cause not connected with disease; if the respiration be quickened, a more frequent circulation of the blood will follow, and an increased activity of the animal spirits, will immediately follow. The writer hereof has long known and practised this mode of speedily acquiring warmth, as being the best indicated in cases—has induced a slow and natural warmth, incomparably more pleasant and wholesome than any heat from a warming-pan can impart. In hot weather, or when other circumstances have not admitted of taking brisk exercise abroad, often-repeated deep inspirations, and deep inspirations, and letting the air remain its full time in the lungs whilst pacing; in quick time, the passage of his house, has often appeared to the writer to convey every benefit of a walk abroad, then either impracticable, or which would have consumed valuable time—that precious thing, of which intelligent and thinking men have the most need to be economic. Has often been, and will, to a certain extent, over the muscular action of the lungs, been too much overlooked amongst creative minds? Might not a purposely induced breathing, in the early stages of fever, materially contribute to arrest the progress of the disease?—

**Singular Case.**—A friend who is well acquainted with the fact, has given us (says the editor of the Lithiner Mercury) the following information. A young man named Davenport, aged 10, and a resident of West Brunswick, in the north part of this county, was returning home from his day's work in usual health, the 9th day of January. He was found dead (or apparently so) the next morning, in the road about 100 rods from his father's house. On the 11th, a coroner's inquest was called, who pronounced the cause of his death unknown. From this time, the body was observed to discover various signs of gradually returning life, and after the funeral ceremonies on the 12th, the coffin being opened for the view of the spectators, the corpse presented a most unusual appearance—the color had returned to the cheeks—the countenance like that of a person in quiet sleep—and large drops of sweat were standing on the forehead. The father of the deceased had buried; physicians were called, and several experiments were tried, in the hope of restoring the vital spark—all however proved unavailing, and after keeping him till Thursday the 14th, the body was committed to the grave.

**Alteration in the Boxes of the Head.**—A report was made by Mr. Emery, Ribe, and Murph, on a distinct cranium, presented by M. Davenport. This cranium belonged to a veteran, who had died of disease of the heart. There was a considerable thickening of all the bones of the cranium, with the frontal and part of the sphenoid bone. The projections which the internal parts of the frontal sinuses and the crista galli made, had displaced the optic nerve on one side; and, never having received any injury, had been occurring during life. [Revue Medicale Alsace.

**Anomalous Diarrhea.**—M. Comel presented to the Royal Academy of Medicine a heart, with its auricle and part of the sphenoid bone. The projections which the internal parts of the frontal sinuses and the crista galli made, had displaced the optic nerve on one side; and, never having received any injury, had been occurring during life. [Revue Medicale Alsace.

**Vaccination.**—A bill has been reported in Congress for the encouragement of vaccination. [The bill authorizes the President to appoint a Superintendent of Vaccines, with an annual salary of $1000; whose duty it shall be to keep constantly on hand, a sufficient supply of genuine vaccine virus, and to furnish the same to all the surgeons of the army and navy, and to every physician in the U.S. who may apply for the same, free of cost; and for letters not exceeding an ounce in weight, containing vaccine matter.]; Read twice and committed.

**Rare Case.**—A Mr. Samuel Brown, who was drowned at Norfolk, has been resuscitated, after being under water about 15 minutes, where he was for fourteen feet deep.—This is a rare instance of restored suspended animation, and we wish it might occur often.

**Influenza in China.**—A letter from Wampoa, near Canton, Sept. 20 states that an epidemic cold prevailed there; and whole crews of vessels had been at once taken down with it. It thus appears that the disorder has raged in the northern as in the southern hemisphere, in the eastern and in the western. It has indeed been a universal complaint.


March 9th.—Joseph Malone, 40; Eliza Norris, 10.
Sarah Augusta Ripley, 5; Stephen Jackson, 50; Jno. Tuckerman, 66, 11th.—Samuel F. F. Frew, 10 mo.
Charles LeRoy, 21; 11th.—Harriet F. Ayer, 3 mo; Mary Snow, 18 mo. 15th.—Philip Lyons, 31. 16th—Thomas Fitzgerald, 46; Andrew Clary, 35. 17th.—Gardner Monson, 31.
18th.—At Key West, Dr. Samuel Biddle, Surgeon's Mate, 24.
19th.—Mr. George H., of Boston.
20th.—At East Windsor, Connecticut, the 6th inst. Dr. Eliza Tudor, aged 93.

**This Day Published,**


This has a great advantage over other American editions. It is printed from a new and improved edition, but lately published in London, containing the author's latest improvements and emendations, which are numerous and extensive. It contains at least one fourth more matter. The original ratio of 6x9 is preserved, but printed on a large and distinct type. The marginal references are a great convenience, as the book is one of constant reference to the practitioner. The publishers are thus minute, because a new edition has appeared, which is only a reprint from the first edition.

The Study of Medicine having been extensively circulated, it is presumed that most Physicians are now acquainted with its superior merit, and of the high literary and professional character of the Author. To those who have examined the work nothing need be said in its commendation—It speaks sufficiently for itself. It is the work of a sound mind (all in the course of two years,) must be undeniable proof that the work is one of no ordinary standard. It is, to use the words of an eminent Physician of our own country, 'an attempt to work, which will be read and commented upon as long as Medicine shall be studied as a science.'
REVIEW.
An Introductory Lecture, delivered in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at the Opening of the Winter Session, on the 7th of Nov. 1825.

By David Hosack, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine in the University of the State of New York. pp. 61.

The medical profession is above all others, perhaps, the most dependent upon public opinion, it is therefore with very cordial feelings we receive every effort to exalt its character and maintain its honor. The means by which this is effected are as various as the circumstances of the various individuals who compose the faculty. All can advance the cause by the obvious means of exemplary and dignified conduct, by a detestation of quackery, and by a faithful fulfillment of the sacred obligations of the calling; but from the teacher's chair must issue the most powerful and wide-spread influence, and it is to the assemblies of the young men who are destined to fill the various stations of the healing art, that sentiments of honour and high professional integrity can be promulgated with the best chance of success.

The performance of Professor Hosack is rich in every sentiment which we esteem orthodox. A considerable part of the discourse is of a local nature, treating of the advantages held forth by the university of New York for the acquirement of scientific and practical instruction in the healing art. These are principally—

1st. The abundant sources of information to be obtained from the diseases and accidents incident to the dense and varied population of New York, containing at this time 170,000 inhabitants.

2d. The Hospital, City Dispensary, the Infirmaries, the Alms-houses and Penitentiaries are accessible to the medical student. The New York Hospital contains about four hundred patients, and has an exclusive library. A separate and extensive anatomical museum appertaining to the Medical College.


For these reasons we do not profess fully to understand, but we think we cannot widely err in imputing to want of unity and harmony among some of the leading members of the profession in our sister city, the number of students in the Medical College of the University of New York has rather diminished, while that of younger institutions in its neighborhood has increased. It cannot require much sagacity to predict these consequences from the causes which have soon ceased to prevail—there is no longer the old-fashioned sentiment, that New York, truly great as she is in every thing else, even in medical fame, will be preeminent in the reputation of its school of medicine.

But the learned professor's introductory lecture is not entirely occupied with subjects of a local nature. There are several considerations of powerful interest to the whole medical community, which he urges with his accustomed earnestness and force. A medical school can only be favorably situated in the precincts of a populous city.

I repeat the observation, gentlemen, totally regardless of the feelings of the envious, or of the interested statements of this opinion, that a great medical school can only exist in a large and populous city. Society cannot find even a shadow to disguise this truth. Indeed it may reasonably be anticipated, that not only the Legislature of this state, but of every other in the Union, will soon perceive the wisdom of concentrating their efforts upon the school of the metropolis instead of multiplying their medical academies in towns and villages, that of necessity can only furnish the rudiments of education, instead of the practical results that are derived from extensive clinical observation and experience." p. 12.

The observations of the author's colleague, Prof. Macenevin, contained in the note to this passage, are to the same effect.

I refer to those village schools, recently established in our country, where they pretend to teach Anatomy and Surgery without subjects and the practice of physic to patients. I speak within bounds in asserting, that when examined, but which by some is overlooked, by others attempted to be concealed—namely, that the solitude of a medical education must be laid and can only be laid, amidst the hospitals and dispensaries, the country medical schools, the numberless dispensers, of a multitudinous city." p. 14.

Well wishers as we profess to be to country medical institutions, and highly as we estimate the talent now engaged in the support of some of them, we confess there is to us infinite weight in the foregoing remarks.

A second point urged by the learned professor is one on which there is more difference of opinion, but upon which for ourselves we have never entertained many doubts.

Another advantage which the student of medicine will receive from the presence of his studies in the city of New York, is derived from the number in which the practice of medicine is conducted, as regards the dispensation of medicine by the physician. For the physicians of New York city are so numerous as to render the student hitherto so long and usefully continued throughout this country, of compounding their own prescriptions. This is usually performed by the phials under the immediate superintendence and direction of the physicians." p. 17.

This custom to be sure does not now prevail in this city, but we believe it was quite common twenty years ago. And the oldest practitioner in the state, at a time when he attended daily more patients than any man now practising in the state, found it no great additional burden to prepare and compound all the medicine he prescribed, and even, in times of scarcity and suspension of importation of foreign drugs, to manufacture his own chemicals.

The professor reproaches a practice we are glad has not yet crept in amongst us, that of employing ignorant and unqualified persons as bleeders.

A practice recently introduced in a neighbouring city of employing persons altogether meddled in the profession, either as physicians or surgeons, to perform bleeding operations. Those who, from want of education, must necessarily be incompetent to decide upon the extent to which the operation should be carried, independently of the accidents incident to such operation in such hands, or other embarrassments which may occur during its performance, to render its propriety doubtful, or which might contrive to render it altogether circumstances in which the physician alone can decide." p. 19.

Professor Hosack strongly recommends to his class the practice of taking notes of all they see and hear during their course of lectures. This advice is enforced by reference to the example of many distinguished men—Boyle, Locke, Voltaire, and Pope, Dr Franklin, Dr Rush, and many others.

"A Student sine calamo somniis, says some distinguished writer. The physician should, of all others, treasure up this line, for to recall without his note book at his elbow is indeed to dream." p. 55.

Our limits will not permit us to extend our extracts or remarks. The perusal of the whole lecture will afford both pleasure and profit.

ON THE EFFECTS OFIODINE.

Like most new remedies, iodine has undoubtedly been by some extolled above its real merits; the opposite, however, are already sufficiently numerous to render it one of the most important articles of the materia medica.

The information we possess in relation to its powers, is as yet scarcely anything more than empirical. Its influence over certain diseases, has been determined by experiment, but we are not yet able to ascertain its modes operandi, nor with certainty, the set of organs to which its effects are particularly determined, and consequently cannot refer it to its proper class. As yet we must consider it as an original with observing its effects in the variety of diseases, in which it may be employed, and of which some common character or trait, may lead us to a more determinate idea of its remedial nature. This, indeed, is the order of inquiry which has led to what scientific information we have of the character and powers of almost every article of the materia medica.

While there prevails a belief in specifics, corresponding to each individual disease, however the empirical use of remedies existed in the same degree; in consequence of which almost every substance in nature, and particularly such as possessed any remarkably sensible properties, was successively tested as a medical agent. It is almost impossible to name an article that exists naturally, which was not employed, and for a variety of diseases. The medicinal virtues of many of the most valuable articles were thus indiscriminately ascertained, and their modes of operation afterwards determined upon physiological principles. At the present day, as we possess

* A professor of the Philadelphia school used incessantly to relate the anecdotes of his brother, who had studied medicine in Philadelphia, rather more ignorant than the rest of his bretheren, was noted for his success in the operation. On being asked why he always succeeded when his patients frequently failed, he replied, "I always go for that there vein that beats thump, thump, thump, in the bend of the arm."
so great a variety of agents, adequate to answer nearly all the indications which we may hope to ever to fulfill, and as the idea of natural specific has been long abandoned, it would be altogether unwarrantable to experiment upon the sick with those articles which may remain untried, unless there should exist some morally or other cause, which may suggest their use. We find that the medical agents are naturally divided into classes, the individuals of each of which have a similar influence upon the human system. The probability is, that we already possess articles of each one of these classes, and which respond to all the general indications which can ever be answered by medical agents. It is in vain to think of developing any remedy which shall operate in a more degree materially different, from those of which we now possess. All that we can rationally hope to accomplish in this way, is to add to the present list, articles which may answer more completely the indications that we are already able in a measure to fulfill, or the qualified effects of which may better adapt them to particular cases.

The medicinal properties of iodine were first employed in the burnt sponge, although it was not then known to exist in it. Perhaps the discovery of the use of this article first recommended it to the empirical practitioners. The medicinal effects of the sponge were so decided, that though regarded as a nostrum, and rejected from many of the pharmacopoeias, it maintained a great reputation with the vulgar, and was even used by many of the faculty, though most regarded its medicinal virtues as attributable to the alkali which the article contained, and preferred the use of that article in a more scientific form, but by no means with an equal degree of success. It has since been ascertained, that iodine, which exists in many marine productions, confers upon the burnt sponge its active properties. To acquaint our readers with its medicinal virtues, we refer them to a treatise on this subject by Dr. Manson, of Nottingham, England.

American Medical Review.

SALT RHEUM.

Complaints of the surface, or diseases affecting the functions or structure of the skin, are decidedly more frequent than any other class of maladies. These disorders seldom prevent those afflicted with them from pursuing their ordinary occupations and appearing in the streets and society as if sound and in perfect health. Hence are the public seldom aware of their frequency. There also exists an idea that such diseases are either incurable, or that their removal is dangerous: as therefore they do not interrupt one's business or appear to the world, or give any very insupportable pain or inconvenience, they are suffered to take their course without any attempts to remove them. Hence the faculty remain in the same ignorance as the public, of the immense proportion of the population of every city and village in every country, who are afflicted with disorders of this nature.

Would that instead of giving so little pain and inconvenience they confined persons to their homes, or at least prevented them from carrying their business! This may seem a singular and rather unenlightened wish of our own. But however it may be singular it is very far from being uncharitable.

Diseases of the skin admit of treatment and of cure as readily and as safely as disorders of any other structure. There are many diseases of the lungs, the stomach, and the liver, which those who are afflicted with, lose no time in sending for a Physician to heal. If, however, the treatment is injudicious, the disease is aggravated rather than relieved, for medicine has power over the system sufficient to do good, it has also power to do harm when improperly applied. That which can save life, can destroy it: yet these truths do not prevent persons from soliciting medical aid in such cases. It is equally true that if medicine can so alter the state of a cutaneous disease as to make it worse or destroy it, the facts show that the disease is powerfully affected by every agent, and that the unfortunate result is the effect of an injudicious use of means, and not a proof that the disease is incurable.

The idea that it is dangerous to cure diseases of the skin arises from the fact, that when remedies have succeeded in removing the difficulty on the surface, such a removal has been often followed by a more serious derangement of organs whose efficacy is more immediately important to life. But it must be remembered that the removal of the difficulty on the surface is not always the cure of the disease. Many complaints which show themselves on the surface are constitutional, and the disorder on the skin is the means of Nature to relieve disease and not the disease itself. In these cases it is more particularly important to apply remedies. Instead however of endeavouring to remove the apparent local disorganization, the real disease must be attacked. We must cure it by internal remedies and not by external; we must take the treatment out of Nature's hands, and adopt a manner which will effect the same result in less time, and in a mode less inconvenient to the patient.

If this view of the subject was always taken by practitioners, we should never hear of any ill consequences from the cure of cutaneous complaints: and if such diseases were only twelve times as troublesome to persons as they are, they would seek for relief, instead of giving way to an unbounded prejudice, and bearing about with them all their days a loathsome disorder, and transplanting it an unwelcome inheritance to their offspring.

There are very few diseases of the skin which do not admit of a perfectly safe and decided cure. The Salt Rheum, so called, which is usually thought to be without a remedy, is one of those complaints which is cured with the most perfect ease, and, if the mode of treatment be judicious, with equal safety; but if the removal of it is attempted with external means, more serious derangement and often death will be the result. Let the public then be on their guard against those external remedies which are often recommended or administered for this complaint, and which cannot fail to endanger life though they may perform the promised good by removing the disease.

DR. HOSACK'S LECTURE.

In this number of the Intelligencer we publish a Review of Dr. Hosack's Introductory Lecture delivered at the opening of the present session of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, written by a gentleman with whose opinion upon the work, we are sorry our own does not quite coincide. From whatever may escape us in the course of our humble remarks, and we would hazard nothing but in the true spirit of humility, we wish not to be understood as finding fault with the reviewer; for we hold that the facilities for the free expression of opinions and the right of employing them on all subjects are common property.—So much by way of preface. Now to the work:

"Bring the bellows, Betty, blow a blaze—
"Puff!—Puff!—Puff!—Perp!—Perp!"

The pamphlet, to begin with, presents a most formidable aspect,—"published at the request of the students of medicine," with ample margins, large type, thick edged lines, wide spaces, and great—scarcity of matter. Had it proceeded from any other source than such a distinguished member of the Medical Profession as Dr. Hosack of New York, we should have fallen stillborn from the press, and have been consigned, without remark or regret, to its appropriate place in the vault of oblivion. We find it difficult to persuade ourselves that Dr. Hosack ever entertained a wish that this lecture should be printed; and we marvel, the Doctor being "sensible that the discourse has been overrated by the kind and generous feelings of the audience to whom it was addressed," should have yielded to the request of the "Students of Medicine, that it should be presented to them and the public in any other dress than its original garb; in fact, we believe for the credit of medical students, that the request was not made by the class, or by even a majority of it, but by certain of their number who are ardent loud-entrers; they tell the Doctor that the purity of style, the force of expression, the large and comprehensive views it (the lecture) contains of the subjects under consideration, render it a valuable production, and worth the expense of the refined gentleman, the polished scholar, and enlightened physician;

"—pah!—a man who can swallow such stuff, must possess the stomach of a whale, with the digestion of an ostrich.

The object of the lecture, is to set forth the superior advantages of the New York City Medical School. We wish it had fallen to the lot of some person to officiate as trumpeter on this occasion, who would have puffed and blow'd with less nudity, less dili and less distinct in his own powers, and more confidence in the resources of the college; but—

"That's just a snatch o' Hornbook's way!"

"And in the modesty of perfect duty
I read as much as from the rattling tongue
Of saucy and audacious eloquence!!"

That the city of New York possesses superior capabilities for medical education, cannot be denied; the facilities there presented are not inferior to any place in the world; in this opinion we are amply sustained both by Dr. Hosack and the ingenious, though, we think, too civil, Reviewer of his work. Why then, is it, that surrounded by such means, and possessed of such a superabundance of advantages, the Medical School in that city not only does not stand prominent,—primus inter pares—but does not, in public estimation, rank with the three first? The Reviewer thinks that he "cannot widely err in imputing it to want of unity and harmony in some of the leading members of the profession in our sister city; if he had imputed it to something else, which it does not become us to designate, we think he would have erred less widely."

"We are surprised at the fact," says Dr. Hosack, "that the Medical School of N. Y. has not yet attained that elevated rank in the public estimation that has hitherto been attached to the Medical School of a sister city,—of a sister city! why not three sister cities? is the truth. Now we are not at all surprised at this fact, and for the benefit of all medical schools we remark, that an elevated rank is not to be attained by any institution whose professors and officers puff themselves and each other; such a rank is not to be attained by attempts to destroy the reputation of radically useful institutions, in town or country, by false insinuations and vile distractions; nor is it an elec-
disorder of the digestive organs, and indigestion, are constantly in the mouths of practitioners, yet most attach to them no particular or precise opinions, but speculatively suppose that they imply one and the same condition of parts, and even that condition is not distinctly defined. Cullen, in his Nosology, uses the word dyspepsia as expressive of a set of symptoms, but, in his usual superficial manner of proceeding, has made the definition so nominal, by hushing neither implied nor expressed any pathological state to which these symptoms could be referred; and, indeed, all that can be gathered from this author is, that they belong to the class of Neuroses, which in its turn, is an abstraction taken, not from pathological conditions, but from mere symptoms, or indications of disorder. The more fashionable words, disorder of the digestive organs, are employed in an equally delusive manner, for under these words many affections, disquiet in their seat and nature, and consequently requiring very different modes of treatment, have unquestionably been confounded.

The speculative doctrine or rather absurdity of disorder of the digestive organs, is carried so far, that if a patient's tongue be furred, that is deemed quite sufficient, all further inquiry being so unnecessary that the patient's mouth is closed if he attempts to enter on the slightest history of his case, and forthwith the blue pill and a flesh diet are prescribed, while the suffering individual, like Tantalus, has to be deprived of everything like liquid, whatever may be his previous habits or the present degree of thirst. This medical bubble has grown to a large size, and has floated long, but surely it is about to burst, once for all, before the touch of modern pathology, which requires, that general principles be most deliberately deduced from an accurate observation of particular circumstances. The doctrine of disorder of the digestive organs, as now current, strongly resembles that which Sangrado taught, in less than five minutes, to Gil Bias; is, indeed, practically, only substituting for bleeding and warm water the blue pill, a flesh diet, and abstinence from liquids, which are adequate, according to this creed, to cure all chronic ailments! But, seriously speaking, as the subject deserves Dr. Hosack's careful perusal, we cannot help taking shame to himself for having, at an earlier period of his life, lent the least countenance to this doctrine, which an ample experience has convinced him is most erroneous in its pathology, and most mischievous in its practice, since it leads to an utter disregard of minute investigation, since it involves under one abstract name, many affections essentially different, and since it is associated with an indiscriminate prescription of medicines, which, so far from relieving, directly aggravates several of the affections in which the functions of digestion are disturbed. He details cases, some of the brain, some of the spinal cord, some of the intestines, and some of the liver, which have been treated erroneously in one uniform manner, according to the prevalent notion of disorder of the digestive organs, but he most especially adverted to chronic affections of the brain which, depending on small inflammation, there have been mistaken and maltreated, till actual disorganization results, an effect which might have been prevented by a true knowledge and nature of the affection.

As to the term indigestion, it has been employed in an almost similarly delusive way, or under the supposition, that it proceeds from a simple condition which can be remedied by some favourite nostrum of such admirable efficacy that it exactly suits all cases; but the truth is, that this dyspepsia, this disorder of the digestive organs, this indigestion, is not one affection, but many affections; or, rather, it is the consequence of many different affections; a fact which requires that a man should come to the sick divested of all hypotheses, and investigating every case for itself, bring his general principles of pathology and practice to bear upon it with a due consideration of all its particular or peculiar circumstances. To take a right view of the subject, therefore, it is necessary to separate it into parts, each being distinctly exhibited, the whole may, at least, be clearly comprehended. Dr. Armstrong, however, proceeding to the subject, as connected with any primary disorder of the stomach, liver, or intestines, chronic inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, before described, are so often attended by indigestion, that in every instance we should ascertain by inquiries whether or not these parts are the seat of disturbance, recollecting that it is often a guide in the investigation of diseases to find out, in the first place, what organs are most affected, since independently of chronic inflammation of the brain, or spinal cord, many cases of indigestion are occasioned by impressions made upon the nervous system at large through excitations, depressions and anxieties of mind alone, as all these ultimately tend to exhaust the energy of the body, and of the stomach in particular, so that it cannot do its office perfectly. In advertising to the various local affections connected with indigestion, Dr. Armstrong first notices a painful affection of the stomach, which he has frequently seen to arise, partly from over exertion of mind, and partly from the influence of that on the stomach, aided by some offending ingesta.

PAINFUL AFFECTION OF THE STOMACH FROM OFFENDING INGESTA.

This affection is most commonly induced by some offending ingesta, when the body has been weakened by mental or material causes. The pain generally comes on suddenly, and is extremely acute, being usually attended by a sense of commotion and distension of the stomach; sometimes nausea, retching, or vomiting are present; but in many cases these are absent; the pulse is slow and the skin cool. This affection is sometimes conjoined with gout, when the stomach has, previously to the attack, been overloaded by indigestible food; and by the hypothetical part of the profession, who follow old opinions rather than modern facts, it has been regarded as something peculiarly strange, and short, as gout in the stomach. The three remedies which Dr. Armstrong has found most beneficial in this affection, are—laudanum, hot water, and pure brandy, but he considers the last as by far the most efficacious in general; a small wine glass of it, sipped slowly, generally serves to remove the pain, which, if allowed to continue many hours, sometimes leads to inflammation of the stomach. When one attack of this affection has occurred, the patient should be most careful to abstain from all that may be in any manner likely to increase the inflammation of the stomach.
in avoiding the exciting causes for the future, since it is apt to return under similar circumstances. When a meal is taken during a state of exhaustion, it ought to be simple, slowly masticated, and moderate in quantity, a little while wine being taken with it, which, in such cases, greatly assists digestion.

**Local Simple Excitement, and Chronic Inflammation of the Mucous Membrane of the Stomach.**

Dr. Armstrong thinks that local simple excitement, which he defined before, and chronic inflammation of the mucous surface, are most frequently the result of that abuse of the stomach, through excess or complication of diets or drinks, so common in civilized society. The local simple excitement is denoted by the tip and borders of the tongue being redder, and the papillae being more raised than natural, while the centre is slightly furred, and the patient has some uneasiness, occasionally in the stomach, the mind being more fretful than ordinary; there is no pain on pressure about the epigastrium. This state of the stomach may continue for weeks, and even months, but it is liable to be followed, at last, by chronic inflammation of the same structure.

Chronic inflammation of the lining of the stomach is attended by symptoms similar to those of local simple excitement, but in the former there is pain on every moderate pressure at the epigastrium, and this pain is most distinct after food has been taken, which, in general, more or less increases the irritation, and often occasions some degree of sickness. Chronic inflammation of the stomach is sometimes accompanied by some fever, but that is often absent, as far as the heat of the surface is concerned, though the pulse is mostly accelerated. Chronic inflammation, as well as local simple excitement, is sometimes followed by an attack of acute or subacute inflammation, a common consequence, indeed, of chronic irritation of all mucous surfaces.

The local simple excitement is generally best removed, provided the mind can be kept tranquil, by three simple and very moderate meals in the day, the mastication being slow, with rest immediately after each meal, and a sufficient interval between each, that one may be digested before the other is taken. In such cases, one meal of animal food may be allowed; new bread should be prohibited, and the stomach ought not to be distended by too much liquid. Much benefit often results from keeping some aromatic, such as a clove, in the mouth after each meal, as it produces a copious flow of saliva, which greatly assists digestion. In addition to a regulated diet, the warm bath, at the temperature of about 90 degrees, is often extremely useful, with regular exercise in the open air, six hours as to sleep, and, if possible, a cheerful tone of mind, which, as Bacon observes, helps digestion more than is imagined. With regard to medicines if the bowels be constipated, they should be relieved by a mild aperient pill occasionally, and when any acidity exists, a few grs. of the carbonate of potash or soda, or a few drops of each, may be given two or three times a day, in any simple vehicle. But this complaint is best removed by a suitable diet, the rule of which can be easily deduced by a sensible person attending to his own feelings after meals, following too the vulgar adage, viz., only eating when he is hungry.

In chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach, the diet must be entirely bland. While any pain exists on pressure, animal food must be wholly prohibited; in such cases a bland diet of sage, or similar articles, answers the best, in small quantities and frequently, perhaps, than about once in five or six hours. This plan, with the use of the tepid bath, lavements, or mild aperients, and the repeated application of leeches to the epigastrium, as long as the least degree of pain exists, will generally soon remove chronic inflammation of this structure. Dr. A. says, that he has seen several cases of chronic inflammation of the mucous surface of the stomach pass on to actual disorganization under the use of the blue pill and the flesh diet, and, sweeping supposition, that the affection was disorder of the digestive organs, terms which he would like to see distinctly defined, as their vagueness has become dangerous to society.

Dr. Armstrong makes some remarks on strictures about the cardia, and on scrabiae of the pylorus, both of which he considers as generally the product of inflammation, though he admits that stricture about the cardia may and does take place spasmodically, independent of inflammation.

He next adverts to the extensive sympathies which the stomach has with other parts of the body, a fact which had not escaped the observation of Celsus, two thousand years ago, who says, that when the stomach is disordered, the whole system is disturbed, and that the weak parts there especially suffer. He notices the great influence which the stomach has upon the heart, in some cases surpassing, oppressing, or exciting an irritative affection of that organ, often affecting remote parts; he alludes to those other particular sympathies by which irritation might arise in any structure of the body when the stomach remains chronically disordered; and lastly, he makes some remarks on the general irritation which it often maintains in the nervous system, and is also of opinion, that in many cases it influences the blood itself, some facts being adduced in favour of this opinion where the digestion has been long impaired.

**VARIETIES.**

**Medical Commencement.**—The first annual commencement of the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania, was held at the City Hall, in Philadelphia, on Thursday, June 2d. The degree of Doctor of Medicine was then conferred upon the following gentlemen: Richard Angell, James Cook, Joseph Ewell, Charles H. Laugh, Thomas J. Moore, Charles H. Stone. Each of the graduates was delivered a charge by the graduates, in which he enforced, in a most interesting manner, the consideration of those heavy responsibilities which rest on the medical practitioner.

**The Small Pox.**—This last-mentioned disease still prevails in New Orleans, and it will, doubtless, be communicated into some parts of this state, by passengers in boats from that place.

The Cincinnati City Council have passed a special ordinance, prohibiting persons from entering that city who have come from New Orleans, in a boat, without first producing a certificate from the Board of Health, that he or she is not infected with this disease. —West Union, (Ohio) Register.

**Phlogorressecence of Potatoes.**—Lichtscheider tells us, that an officer on guard at Strasburg, on the 7th of January, in passing the barracks, was alarmed on observing a light in one of the barracks. As this was strictly prohibited, he was suspected, and he hurriedly left his post, the soldiers being required to sit up in bed admiring a beautiful light which proceeded from potatoes in an incipient state of putrefaction. The light was so vivid that the soldiers could see to read by. It gradually became less and less vivid, and entirely disappeared by the night of the 10th of the month. —Edin. Phil. Journ.

**Gymnasium.**—The city government has been petitioned for the grant of a piece of land for the establishment of a gymnasium.

**Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston, Ending March 24; from the Health-Office Returns.**

March 18th.—Edward McLean, 64; Naria Cockran, 8 mo. 10th.—Beury Conners, 35; Hannah Stevens, 58. 14th.—William Jackson, 70; John Woman, 70; Thomas, 26; Mary Augustus, 40; Child of Thos. Bottomm, 3 mo. 22d.—Diana Davidson, 54; Anna Allen, 45. 23d.—Samuel Ware, 64; Sally Ferguson, 40; C. Pike, 9 mo.; David Finch, Jr., 32 days; Benj. R. H. Fernald, 5.

Infantile, 1.—Cancer, 1.—Fits, 1.—Consumption, 8.—Mortalit. Inj. or Ill. 4.—Inf. Mort. 1.—Scarlet Fever, 1.—StiUborn 1.

**Vaccination.**

The undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others. Vaccines will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: Private Tickets at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holder of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and Public Tickets at five dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighborhood of any particular post office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held strictly private, and used for the purpose for which they were issued; Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular office all applications for matter forwarded must be made. Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U.S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages henceforth offered to physicians and others, will be re- curred to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time after the Postage is paid.

JAMES SMITH, Baltimore, 10th Sept. 1825.

(27) The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the appeal of the Law to encourage Vaccination, was not the result of any mistake made by Dr. Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exculpates Dr. Smith, and goes far towards the execution of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Sept. 27.
OBSERVATIONS.

THE LATE DR. HUNTER ON INFANTICIDE.

An unfortunate mother, lately tried for infanticide in the South of France, is said to have been indicted for her liberty to the circumstances of the counsel who defended her having produced a conviction of her innocence in the minds of the jury, by the lecture of the subjoined observations. He stated that the paper he was about to read, contained certain remarks made by an eminent English physician, named Hunter. He understood that this excellent and praise-worthy information was communicated by the Doctor, in the presence of the Royal Society of London, many years ago; but he believed this valuable document had never appeared in print. He added that these reflections could not be too widely spread, and that it were well that every man, who was in a situation to be placed on a jury should impress them strongly on his memory.

"Gentlemen," said Dr. Hunter, "from the result of long experience, I will take upon myself to say, that females in a state of pregnancy, and especially if acknowledged in their situation, are, in most cases, objects of our greatest pity, and in general less culpable than we are inclined to suppose. The crime and the barbarity are on the side of the father of the infant. The mother is weak, credulous, and deceived; the seducer, having obtained his ends, needs no longer of his promises. The unfortunate girl finds herself betrayed, deprived of her love, of the attentions and assistance she fondly expected to receive, condemned henceforth to struggle against sickness, poverty, and shame—in one word, against a total abandonment. A dishonest woman can never be reduced to this deplorable state, because she is insensible to opprobrium; but she who possesses a strong sense of honour, wishes to merit the approbation of the world, has often not the strength of mind to support the misfortunes I have described. Driven to a state of distraction, she terminates an existence which has become insupportable, and what man with a spark of pity in his breast would insult the memory of the wretched female?

"If she had not listened to the vows and perfidious protestations of our sex, she might, during a long and happy life, have been a tender and chaste spouse, a virtuous and respected mother. This reflection putting a climax to her despair, she comes to the resolution of launching into eternity."

"As far as I am able to judge, the greater number of these pretended murders are far from deserving this name. The mother cannot sustain the idea of her shame, and is evidently anxious to preserve her reputation. She was virtuous and esteemed; she does not feel sufficient courage to await for and acknowledge her infamy. Hope abandons her by degrees; she fancies that she may be mistaken with respect to her pregnancy, or that some accident may occur to prevent the exposure; yet danger approaches and increases every day; fear and despair hold possession of her mind. Many females would, in this state of mind, become guilty of suicide, if they did not know that such an act would, in all cases, involve, infallibly, judicial proceedings, which would disclose the circumstance they are desirous to keep a secret. In this perplexity, when the idea of destroying their infant does not enter their thoughts, they frame different schemes to conceal its birth; but difficulties of every kind stare them in the face. They are unable to come to a resolution, nor do they sufficiently contemplate the arrival of the fatal moment, and calculating too much on chance and events, they are taken unawares; all their plans are destroyed, grief and pain deprive them of their reasoning faculties. If their weakness is not extreme, they escape, in the midst of their sufferings, to some private spot, where fear and their bewildered senses have conducted them, and the accouchement takes place; they faint, and are consequently unable to pay attention to what is going on, and that she was able to notice, before they find the infant has expired. Is it to be expected that they should divulge their secret, when revealing it would answer no purpose? Do not their most honest inclinations induce them to preserve their good name? They endeavour to conceal, in the best way they are able, every trace of the event, well knowing that if a discovery be made, the fact of concealment would prove against them.

"I have generally observed, that the more a woman repented her weakness, the more difficultly experienced in making her confess, and this is natural. Among the many examples I could mention, I select the following:—I once dissected two young females, who, during their life, enjoyed a spotless reputation; I attended them professionally during their illness, and was deceived by both. One of them, however, had raised some distrust in my mind, and I endeavoured with all my power to make her confess what I suspected. I had promised to do every thing I could to prevent any discovery being made, but she resisted all my efforts with a determined and obstinate denial: they both expired, after suffering the most exacerbating pains. When the bodies were about to be removed, in one of the beds a dead infant was discovered: it had not attained its full growth, and was stretched by the side of its unfortunate mother. Nearly the same circumstances occurred with respect to the other female, except that the infant was not born. Here we see what patience and forbearance the fear of shame is capable of inspiring."

"A young girl in a state of pregnancy, and who had concealed the fact, was delivered during the night; she was suspected—search was made, and an infant enveloped in linen was found in a trunk. She confessed that she was the mother, but denied having destroyed it, or of having such an intention. I opened the body of the infant, in the presence of Mr. Pinkton, and the lungs floated when we placed them in water. The mother stated that she was in the service of a mistress who was extremely attached to her on account of her honesty and good conduct; she intended to leave her situation, but then she reflected that suspicions would arise, and no means would be left untried to ascertain the real motive of her departure; if a discovery was made, her ruin would be complete. In this anguish of mind she remained irresolute as to the conduct it was proper to pursue; she prepared some baby linen, and this circumstance pleased strongly in her favor; she engaged in the neighborhood a furnished room, which she requested the landlady to hold in reserve for a female whose accouchement was shortly to take place; her plan was to run thither the moment she felt the first symptoms, and immediately to send for a midwife; she then intended to return to the house of her mistress in a few hours, and assign some pretext for her absence. She had heard that soldier's wives had sometimes been delivered in the fields, had taken up their infant, and had followed the husband upon his march. She believed that she was able to do the same. During the night that preceded the accouchement, she experienced pain; she dressed herself for the purpose of keeping herself warm, and to be able to proceed to the room she had hired, if the pains increased. After waiting some time, she was suddenly seized with fear, and such a dreadful grief, that she was totally deprived of strength and courage sufficient to go down stairs and cross the street in the dark. Giving herself up to despair, she fell upon her bed and swooned. When she came to herself she saw a dead infant by her side. Her first care was devoted to her infant; but having ascertained that it was dead, she began to consider what was to be done. Morning approaching, she got up, covered the dead infant with some linen, and placed it in the trunk. She arranged her chamber, and went to bed again. The landlady, whose room she had engaged, being put upon her oath, was examined. We women then had a small credit in advance, and made no inquiries respecting the person who was to become her lodger: she recognized the servant immediately when she saw her; Mr. Pinkton and myself declared that she appeared entitled to be believed, and at the same time we proved to the jury, that the fact of the lungs floating in water did not prove against the prisoner. She was acquitted, and I have the satisfaction of thinking that she was really innocent.

"On similar occasions, we are too frequently inclined to be prejudiced, and when we see a manifest intention of concealing the birth of the infant, we conclude that there was a plan formed to destroy it: we weigh all the circumstances by this erroneous impression. If it was not thus, we say, why did the mother act in such or such a manner? These questions would have an appearance of being founded on justice, and proper conclusions might be inferred, if the accused person had acted with a cool deliberate mind. But when we reflect that she is violently agitated by conflicting passions and fears, the more her conduct is contrary to reason, the more it
BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

becomes natural. It is, moreover, extremely difficult to judge with certainty, on examining the body of an infant, whether its death was natural or occasioned by violent means. Natural accidents, such as the swelling of the head, the black or very red color of the face, the lungs that float when immersed in water, are frequently taken for indications of a violent death. If an infant breathe only some of these symptoms, and generally attains to that state, and any other than the instantaneous, the lungs would float as if the infant had breathed a longer time, and had afterwards been suffocated. An infant breathes generally the instant its mouth is exposed to the air; thence it follows, that the infant may die before the body appears, particularly when there is a considerable interval between what may be called the birth of the head and of the body, and if this happen when the mother is surrounded with assistance of every kind, with much greater reason may it happen when she is deprived of all succor.

"We often see infants, either from natural imperfections or the nature of the accouchment, whose lives are extremely precarious, and who having breathed for some minutes or hours, cease to exist in spite of all our cares; and why should not this misfortune happen to females when completely abandoned to themselves? Sometimes an infant comes into the world so feeble, that it cannot fail dying if left to itself; and notwithstanding, life would have been preserved if the precaution had been used of breathing in its mouth, and applying warm clothing, of giving it volatile alkalis, rubbing it, &c.; but in the circumstances spoken of, how can these precautions be taken?

"When a female is without attendants, an infant well formed may be born full of life, and expire in a few minutes; either because it remains with its face among linen, which intercepts the passage of the air, or even because its respiration may attract some linen towards its mouth and nose. An unfortunate female, who is alone, whose mind is disturbed, and whose body is extenuated, will possibly are in consequence of their strength nor reflection to fly immediately to the assistance of her infant."—J. Morn. Chron.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS

WHICH ARE COMMONLY CALLED DYSPESA, DISORDERS OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS, AND INDIGESTION.

(Continued from page 184.)

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS OF THE SMALL INTESTINES.

Though many crude conjectures now exist respecting the duodenum being the common seat of disorder, yet as that part of the intestinal canal is found, on dissection, very rarely diseased, Dr Armstrong says that it may be confidently inferred, that it is seldom disordered during life, since those structures which are the seat of disorder in the first instance, are the most liable to exhibit traces of organic derangement after death, a fact familiar to all who are in the habit of examining such anatomy. But he remarks that the mucous membrane of the portion of small intestines is very liable to chronic irritation and inflammation, particularly the lower part of the ileum. Chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of this part, indeed, is not only common to delicate adults, but also to children, many of those cases called marasmus being connected either in their origin or progress with such a condition, which is very apt lead to disease of the mesenteric glands if overlooked for some time after its commencement. Dr A. is of opinion, that enlargement of the glands is generally owing to some adjacent irritation, which, however, has the greatest effect when the body is weak. In elucidation of this opinion, he mentions the fact of the submaxillary and adjacent glands enlarging, when the bronchial, when any exist about the bronchial larynx; the inguinal, when any exist about the penis, as in cancrum; and lastly, the mesenteric, when any exist on the mucous lining of the intestines.

Chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the small intestines is generally attended by an unnatural state of the skin, and often by a torpid or irregular condition of the liver, the last of which appears to be in the series of symptoms so usually a secondary affection. The symptoms by which chronic inflammation of the mucous lining of the small intestines is denoted, are redness of the tip and borders of the tongue, with some redness and elevation of the papillae, together with an obscure uneasiness on pressure, with a somewhat harder feel than natural, while the stools, on the exhibition of a mild laxative, are generally slimy in some degree, and even so often when no laxative has been given. In all cases the bowels are easily moved, but diarrhoea is absent so long as the large intestines are not implicated in the inflammation. The body has been restored, the appetite begins to fail, and the case either terminates by a slow fever or by a sudden attack of acute or subacute inflammation, which is not an unusual consequence of chronic inflammation. This affection is remediable for a considerable time after its commencement, but when misunderstood or maltreated, ulceration often results, with disease of the mesenteric glands, and then it is almost always mortal. In the first stage, in that before ulceration has occurred, or before the structure of the intestines is injured, rest, a bland farinaceous diet, an occasional warm bath, the mildest laxatives about every second day, and the repeated application of leeches, so long as the tongue remains red and the pain exists, are the remedies most to be trusted; but where the stools, on examination, show a deficiency of bile, then a small dose of calomel, with a few grains of rhubarb, may be given every second night with advantage, till the biliary secretion is restored. Dr Armstrong laments that most of the practitioners in England, who have been educated under the nomenclature system, still remain ignorant of the nature and treatment of inflammation, especially under a subacute or chronic form of the mucous membrane of the small intestines, and regarding the mucous stools as the disorder, they give harsh purges daily, and do a great deal of mischief. The truth is, that the mucous stools are merely the effect of the inflammation, the increased secretion which gives rise to the mildest laxatives, and those exhibited only occasionally, do very great harm in such cases. He alludes to several cases in which he has seen strong purgatives, and also antimonial mixtures, fatal from their irritating properties, and he mentions that the irritation which they so frequently excite on the intestinal canal, is often a cause of affecting the head in children particularly, and in adults also, when hereditarily predisposed to head affection. The fretfulness of temper, or depression of spirits, which so commonly accompanies irritation of the mucous lining of the prime valve, is a proof of the powerful sympathy of these parts with the head. When chronic inflammation has been removed, warm clothing, a fresh atmosphere, and a light nutritious diet, are the fittest measures to restore the strength, which ought, however, in all cases, to be not suddenly but gradually confirmed, for whose patients are at once put upon a full diet, or even when they indulge in any indigestible articles of diet, a relapse is generally the consequence. He particularly cautions convalescents against those fruits which have skins or seeds, and even such vegetables as cabbage or potatoes, for some time, and prefers such bland vegetable food as sago, arrow root or bread, no portion of which is apt to escape undigestated from the stomach into the intestines.

(To be continued.)

DR HULL'S TRUSS.

We regret that mention has not before been made in the Intelligencer of Dr Hull's improvements in the construction of Trusses, and of the advantages which they possess over every other instrument of the kind now in use. The rupture pad being concave tends to approximate the separated parts and finally to restore their union and soundness. This single quality, though but one among many which distinguish the instrument, gives it great ascendency over others, or those of convex pad; for they by the pad being protruded into the rupture, not only render union of parts impossible, but constantly tend to aggravate the disease.

"It is ascertained beyond the possibility of doubt, that this form of pad has been lately adopted by the first Surgeons in London, and these Trusses are now manufactured and sold in London, as the American Truss. This it is conceived may be named, as a just source of national and professional gratification.

It is a matter of the deepest regret, that circumstances of so much consequence to an unfortunate class of our fellow-men should have been so little attended to in the construction and application of the preventive means for the different species of Hernia: and that Trusses, combining so few of the principles which lead to the prevention of this calamity, and many of them evidently calculated to increase the difficulty and danger of the patient, should have obtained such general use, and been recommended in so many works of merit, which but tends to propagate error, and to perpetuate that obstinacy of prejudice for which the faculty are already but too justly distinguished.

It was witnessing the above enumerated defects of all Trusses, and the dreadful effects attendant upon rupture, which first led us to reflect upon the nature of the complaint, and to warm clothing a fresh atmosphere, and to suggest more efficient means to mitigate the distress, and preserve the lives of our fellow-men. As a compensation for our research, is the gratification that we have thus far been enabled not only to secure every instance of reducible hernia, but to restore to health a great proportion even of very aged sufferers. In the almost innumerable cases of children when this instrument has been applied, not a single instance has occurred, (within our knowledge,) which
has not been cured in less than eighteen months, and few have exceeded six."

Mr. E. Wright, of this city, has a large assortment of these instruments, and understands adapting them to different cases, in the best manner.

ON THE DURATION OF LIFE IN LITERARY MEN.

It is an established law in both animal and vegetable life, that it should gradually advance to perfection, and as gradually decline. This course appears to be for the most part, when not violently interrupted, regular and constant. The duration of life in most animals, is proportioned to the period of fossil existence. In man, it has a direct ratio to the age of puberty. According as this is accelerated or retarded, from whatever cause, the term of existence is found to be increased or diminished. The period of existence in man is influenced considerably by climate and habits of life. The greatest instances of longevity are to be met with in the northern countries of Europe. Instances are recorded in Sweden and Norway, of life protracted to 150 years, and even longer. In 1733, four couples, whose united ages amounted to 800 years, were married at Frederickschald, and danced in the presence of the king of Denmark. Individuals have also lived to a great age in England, Ireland and Switzerland. In these cases much, no doubt, was owing to the salubrity; but no less to simplicity and regularity of life. The individuals thus exempted, as it were, from the common lot of humanity, either passed their lives in the country, or amid the bustle of a city kept aloof from its vices and its cares.

In viewing the subject, either generally or with a particular reference to men of letters, we should take into view the influence of climate on the growth and development of the body. In cold climates this process goes on slowly; the period of puberty is protracted, and old age is slow in its ravages. Under the influence of more genial skies, the progress of life is more rapid; the greater excitement, the more impetuous ardor of the passions, the more rapid cutaneous exhalation, all combine to wear upon the system—youth and manhood pass quickly away, and old age advances with rapid strides.

Another set of causes which affect the duration of life, are of a moral nature. Such are the influence of the passions, of care and anxiety, as opposed to calmness and a philosophical temper. To these we may add air and regimen, including temperance and the contrary. But we will at present consider the mode of lengthening life in men of letters, and the usual period of its duration in them. The life of a man of letters is in many respects wholly different from that of other men. The man of the world is in constant activity; whether his object be business or pleasure, the acquisition or the disposal of a fortune, the excitement is still maintained. Contrast with this the calm existence of the philosopher—his course is calm and unruffled; his powers are devoted to the improvement of his mind. He may encounter, it is true, many disappointments in his pursuits; his health may be affected by excessive mental excitement, or by want of exercise; but provided he use precautions against these evils, or take proper measures to remedy them, he may reasonably hope for long life.

Philosophic retirement is a security against the inroads of those stormy passions, which both embitter and shorten existence. In the bustle of society, on the contrary, these passions are frequently and powerfully called into exercise. The student, as he is removed from the sight of evil, escapes from its allurements; the man of the world is surrounded with temptation; he gratifies every inclination, indulges in every amusement, and exhausts every source of pleasure. Thus his powers are wasted by excess, his systemervated by indulgence: while the man of literary habits, whose pleasures are innocent and simple, finds the sources from which they are derived become more and more abundant. Sleep, that great restorer of the mind and the body, is defrauded of her rights by the votary of pleasure, and banished by the unnatural stimulant applied to both—while the student, though too great mental excitement may sometimes cheat him of his repose, yet readily repairs his error, and restores to Nature what she so justly demands.

We may infer, then, as a general principle, that the chances of life are in favor of literary men; that the quiet of philosophical seclusion tends more to longevity than the bustle of these erudition, that other activity constantly called into exercise must become toprif, and the system continually excited will be exhausted. While on the other hand, moderate enjoyments and well-balanced feelings, will secure from disease, and maintain the energy of the vital functions. These remarks are confirmed by a reference to the lives of the sages of former times, and the literary men of our own day. Hippocrates, Anacreon, Isocrates, Sophocles, Newton, Voltaire, are instances of longevity in literary men. Herodotus, one of the preceptors of Hippocrates, lived 100 years; his brother Gorgias, 107; and Hippocrates himself closed his career of usefulness at the advanced age of 109 years.

We do not deny that all calculations of this sort are liable to great uncertainty: we concede that life is subject to a thousand contingencies which form exceptions to the general rule; but we maintain distinctly that literary men, paying due attention to those means by which health is preserved, will on the whole enjoy longer lives than those engaged in other vocations. From accurate calculations, and considering the world as it goes, the conclusion was drawn by Buffon, that the mean period of life was 70 years. By applying the same calculation to that portion of the community whose employments are literary, the term is found somewhat longer. Of 152 men taken indiscriminately from various climates, and living in habits of seclusion, the united ages were found to amount to 11,489 years, which gives an average of 76 years. Of a like number, taken from literary society in France, the age amounted to 10,511, giving 69 years for the age of each individual. These calculations were made with a different object, but will serve to support the truth of the general proposition already advanced.

MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS.

We have placed this title at the head of a few remarks we propose to make respecting the modes of treating infants from birth. Our whole design is to ensure the connecting system and recommend early exposure. Man is so much a creature of habit, that throughout life he is governed and constantly affected by the habits formed from the moment of his birth. "Just as the twig is bent, the tree is inclined," is a maxim usually quoted in reference to early education of the mind. But if the mind always partakes of the character given at its first development, the same is equally true of the body; and the earlier we commence the course, with more facility may the young shoot be directed as we wish, and the more firmly will it maintain the position thus given it.

It is the habit of many mothers, nurses, and physicians, to commence washing a babe with warm water; and if adverse from this they all agree that "the chill should be taken off." This is radically wrong. Not only is there an opportunity thus lost of hardening an extensive organ against the deleterious influence of those changes of temperature to which the infant must be more or less exposed in its new world, but the whole mucous membrane also is left tender, and susceptible of demage by slight causes. This is not the greatest evil. It is by the constrictive influence of air on the skin, exciting a contraction of the extreme vessels and a sympathetic contraction of the diaphragm and intercostal muscles that respiration is first excited; and this important function is again enfeebled by battling the surface with warm water. These and other reasons which our limits forbid us to detail, show the importance of first washing a child in water that is cool. Another evil practice that commonly prevails is the use of caps. The head is thus kept in a state of perspiration which may be checked by the opening of a door, or a quick walk of the nurse, or by causes still more trifling, thus producing mumps, and eventually the long train of diseases, which affect the important organ which occupies the cranium. Caps therefore ought to be abandoned, and the head accustomed to exposure. Blankets—a relic of barbarism, should accompany caps in their exile; cradles should be made without tops, and the child carried, if the weather be moderate, from one room to another before it is three days old.

The diet of the mother is another subject on which there are many false prejudices. For several months, she is forbidden any thing that is acid, and even meats are sometimes withheld. After that time has elapsed, the mother is persuaded to taste a little lemongrass, and the child is in pain. From this she draws a conclusion which is exceedingly erroneous. The difficulty is in reality occasioned by the bad habits she has given her infant. If, on the other hand, she commences by consulting her own pleasure as to diet, the infant becomes accustomed to the variety, and the stomach adapts itself to it as an original, and therefore, in a certain sense, natural action.

BITE OF THE TARANTULA.

Giovanna Battista Petrucci, a young Tuscan, about 15 years old, having slept in the open fields, as is the custom with the reapers in harvest time, was awakened at an early hour in the morning by a sharp bite which he felt on the second toe of the left foot. His comrades, whom his cries had brought to the spot, found a large tarantula in the great cost in which he had wrapped himself. There could be no doubt, therefore, that he had been bitten by this insect, and they accordingly brought the young man to the town, and immediately sent for me. I found the toe which had been bitten very much inflamed. The patient was in great agitation, suffering convulsions and subsultus in all his limbs; the penis was erect, and the abdominal muscles in such a state of contraction and rigidity that they might have been aptly compared to a piece of leather. There was a cold sweat on the surface of his body; tongue moist; countenance expressive of terror; an irresistible tendency to sleep, and complete prostration of strength. The
CASE OF GRAVEL CURED WITH CIDER.

By Francis O. Doobey, M. D., of the City of New York.

F. E., aged 29 years, of florid complexion and robust constitution, by profession a jeweller, arrived at New York from Brazil, in April, 1824, after a passage of 52 days. On the passage was attended with dysentery, attended with colic, epistaxis, and teusemus, after five days it degenerated into diarrhoea; evacuations frequent and copious, without pain; he landed, however, in perfect good health.

Between four and five weeks after his arrival in New York, he experienced the same pains that he had suffered on his passage, besides a painful sensation in the lumbar regions, with spasmodic movements, a numbness in the right inferior extremity, and a restraint of the right arm, which he observed to be thicker on the right thigh, the paroxysms lasted from six, seven, eight, nine, to ten days, then ceased, and returned in two, three, four, or five weeks.

Five months after his arrival, he passed much gravel; when I saw him, the 25th of July, 1825, he had passed none for three months; he attributed this to the use of tar water, which he drank in large quantities. The pains, however, were then violent, and he evacuated per anum, a thick glairy matter with mucus; after which he experienced a sensation of heat upon the face and head. I promoted these movements with aperient medicine, and administered enemas of muriate of soda dissolved in water. He experienced equal relief, also, by this treatment, and discharged from his bowels quantities of calcareous matter, and the gravel returned upon him.

I consulted my friend Dr. Baxter, who had no doubt that this was purely a case of gravel, and we determined on the treatment from the analysis of the matters discharged.

After I had referred the case to the patient the plan of treatment agreed upon, he procured a paper from Albany, which mentioned a case of gravel cured by the use of new cider. I had no objection to his making use of it. He drank nearly one gallon in twenty-four hours, since the 10th of August, and (Jan. 1826), has not since been attacked with the complaint, nor detained from his business.—Med. Record.

VARIETIES.

Of Inflammation of the Bowels.—By Dr. Bollie.—Of this formidable disease I have very little to observe. Where the symptoms have been fully formed, the shorter number of cases which I have seen have terminated fatally. One case, however, in which the vomiting was of sterrenaceous matter, recovered. The chief remedy in this very dangerous disease is bleeding largely, both from the system and topically by leeches. It is very desirable that the inflammation should be subdued; the bleeding being more than is necessary be purgative be administered. A purgative during the violence of the inflammation will rarely produce any evacuation, and may even do some injury, by stimulating a part still highly inflamed. Foaming have been very commonly applied to the belly, and they give some temporary relief. I am inclined to think that cold applications may be useful in assisting to subdue the inflammation, and to check the inflammation of the blood by the tobacco-glycerin, and cold water thrown upon the lower limbs, have in some cases excited the bowels to action, when very powerful purgatives had failed.

Sincular Deformity.—We have been informed, says the Western Carolinian, that there is a white female now living in Buncombe county, N. C., about 15 years of age, who was born destitute of legs and arms.

Her body is of the usual size; and is as perfect, in every respect, as any of nature’s works; her head, however, is somewhat larger than that of common persons; her features are regular and even pleasing. Our informant (who is a medical gentleman) saw the young woman, and conversed with her, and he is of the opinion that she is something more than that of which any child of that age. She sits up in a chair [being tied to it] most of the day. Not having the least sign of a leg or arm, she is obliged to be assisted by others, when she wishes to change her position.

Exercise.—Carl Voelcker, professor of gymnastics in London, in giving an account of the exercises in his last paper he observes that after some preliminary practice he teaches his pupils running for a length of time with celerity: if the pupil follows the present rules in this exercise and is not deterred by fatigue in the first six months, he will run three English miles in from 20 to 22 minutes. In the exercise of leaping particularly, with a pole, he says almost every one learns in a short time to leap his own height, and some of pupils have been able to leap 10 or 11 feet high. The horizontal leap is easily obtained over a space three times the length of the body and sometimes more.

Shoulder Joint.—Deportment has often been described in the various cases of a disease of the shoulder joint, like the common disease of the hip joint, and generally the effort of sordid inflammation. It is attended by the same symptoms as the other, except that their seat is changed. The exercise of the injured arm is prevented by the exertion of cause of that kind, this is succeeded by pain in the arm, fore-arm, and elbow joint. It advances from slight inflammation till there is ulceration of the joint, and the operation of cure by the author. Dr. Reeve has in the press, A Practical Treatise on the means of obviating and treating the varieties of Costiveness at different periods of life, and in cases of predisposition to various constitutional maladies, and of disorders of the Lungs, Stomach, Liver, Rectum, &c. by Medicine, Diet, &c.

Impeccable Speech.—The New-York Commercial Advertiser states that there are two institutions in that city where the most obdurate cases of stuttering and stammering are cured in a few days or weeks. One of these institutions is under the direction of a man who could hardly make himself understood a few days since; now, they speak with the utmost distinctness, case, and fluency.

Surgical.—The operation of opening the windpipe to remove a fragment of coal, was performed a few days since on a young child of Mr. Hammon, of Southampton, by Drs. Flint and Mother, of Northampton, assisted by Dr. Jones of S. The child is likely to recover.

Sneddon Fever.—This disease is making ravages in the neighborhood of Little Falls, Herkimer Co., N. Y. The phrase "Friend," printed at that place, mentions about twenty deaths that had occurred in a few days.


Ending March 31; from the Health-Office Returns.

March 24.—Sally Reed, 34; Roana Sheffield, 36. 25th.—Elizabeth Ann Cobb, 4 weeks; Eliza M. Hickman, 7 weeks. 26.—Sally Reed, 34; William Daviey, 24; Delia Cobb, 19; Nathan Keen, 46. 27.—Lyon, a servant of Mr. Fieldston, jr. 12 years; Richard Voelcker, 47; Joseph Cunningham, 56; Reuben Perkins, 26; George Yeaton, 21; 28th.—Child of N. Everett, 4 days; Hannah Hale, 31; Child of A. Waterman, 5 hours. 29.—Jonathan, Mason Parker, 8; William McMenigle, 1, mo; Dorcas Bowers, 35; Benjamin Wiggles, 31. 31st.—Elizabeth Rollock, 45.

Dropsy.—2.—Consumption.—7.—Inflammation in the Bowels, 1.—Pleurisy, 1.—Sciatica, 1.—Inflammation, 1.—Fits, 2.—Group, 1.—Accidental, 1.—Stillborn, 4.
OBSERVATIONS.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS

WHICH ARE COMMONLY CALLED DYSPNIA, DISORDERS OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS, AND INDIGESTION.

Dr. Armstrong briefly points out the treatment most appropriate for each of these forms of diarrhoea, and concludes his Lecture on affection of the large intestines, by some observations on structure of the rectum, and on piles, both of which he is of opinion most frequently result from constipation, chronic inflammation of the peritoneum and tubercles. He remarks, that chronic inflammation of the peritoneum is denoted by a diffused obscure pain over the abdomen, increased by pressure. The face is generally pale, the breath more disturbed than natural, the pulse a little accelerated equally, the bowels constipated, the appetite capricious or prostrate, and the sleep un sound. If neglected for a considerable period, the convolutions of the intestines are apt to be gnashed together by the exudation of lymph, which becomes organized; and from that time the patient becomes more and more emaciated, the skin at last being of a sickly sallow hue all over, but especially about the face and hands. In some cases, however, the effusion of serum is so copious as to lead to abdominal dropsy, an effect of this disorder not very uncommon. The remedies for this affection, in the earlier stages consist in a pure diet, mild and universal and local, and the mildest laxatives occasionally exhibited, with a few grs. of colchicum, and when the stools show a deficiency of bile, a small dose of calomel ought to be given now and then, so as to restore the natural secretion.

As to tubercles, they sometimes arise on the peritoneum, from the irritation apparently of a previous inflammation there, especially when the strength of the body has been taken up by debilitating causes, such as copious losses of blood, or the long continued employment of mercury, a bad diet, or a confined atmosphere. Dr. Armstrong, however, is equally certain, from examinations which he has made, that tubercles arise in the peritoneum, as in other parts, and gives some facts to prove this assertion. Tubercles in this, as in other structures, are most frequently connected in their origin or development with the application of cold, under a debilitated condition of the body, as before explained, in speaking of pulmonary consumption. The existence of tubercles in the peritoneum is denoted by an unevenness of the integuments of the abdomen, when the ends of the fingers are passed over them, as if hard knots have been deeply imbedded in the cellular connecting membrane, though their seat is inside. The surface is generally pale, and the patient mostly complains of the difficulty of keeping himself warm, particularly in the extremities. The tongue is furrowed, the bowels constipated, and almost invariably painted on the administration of a purgative. In some cases the pulse is quicker than natural, but in others he has found it slow and faint when the signs of inflammation are absent. The tongue, when furrowed, and the body for the most part gradually wastes, the skin having a withered appearance.

Dr. Armstrong, in not knowing of any case for actually existent tubercles, but thinks that they may remain latent for years in the peritoneum under a regulated regimen, to prove which he adds a number of instances in which they appear so to have existed. But when an attack of inflammation arises, he thinks it ought to be treated on the common principles, having saved some lives by that method. He cautions the pupils against the use of harsh purges in all cases of this kind, which he has seen very prejudicial. A little cold drawn castor oil, or the electuary of senna answers very well, or an injection, merely to prevent an over-accumulation of feces in the colon.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS OF THE LIVER.

Dr. Armstrong observes, that the liver has been made a sort of lumber-house in physic, into which almost all anomalous complaints have been thrashed by some authors; and yet the pathologies of it have been neglected. So much has been written about bilious complaints, and such is still the rage in London for the blue pill, that many persons think it almost necessary to their existence; but such will do well to be guided by common sense, to discard the constant use of so pernicious an ingredient, and to regulate their habits as to render all medicine unnecessary. It is a serious mistake of the public opinion, in this country, that chronic affections are solely to be counteracted by medicine; under this impression, which accords with the views of animal intelligence, they take their daily pills and potions, and also their dairy dishes and favourite drinks, by which the disorder was created in the first instance, and is maintained afterwards despite of the farago of drugs which they swallow. Independently, however, of any errors of diet or drinks, the emotions of the mind, and the ocean of variable atmosphere, at the bottom of which we breathe, greatly influence the condition and functions of the liver, and yet such is the corrective power of the system, that all the slight disorders thus produced are mostly removed by those spontaneous actions by which an organ itself either rectifies an irregularity, or by which it is rectified through the compensating offices of some other part. So true is this position, that if any person of common observation will take the trouble to observe the changes which take place in the kind or quantity of the bilious secretion, as evinced in the evacuations, he will find that though from diets, drinks, mental emotions, exertions, or any组成的, the secretion of bile varies considerably in the course of a week in many persons, yet abate from physical and physicians, and it shall become perfectly natural in a few days. It is of the utmost consequence that medical pupils should be thoroughly acquainted with such facts, lest they fall into the common error, particularly in regard to the liver, of prescribing medicine of an active quality, when none is necessary. It ought never to be forgotten, that medicine, and especially mercurial medicine, now so much in vogue for chronic ailments, is not a neutral agent, but one that, if misapplied, brings a great deal of harm or a great deal of good, just as it is disrespectfully administered, or the contrary. If common diets and drinks, if mental emotions and atmospheric vicissitudes affect
the secretions of the liver, it ought also to be known, that many drugs have a similar influence, and none so much so as the preparations of mercury. One respectable author, in a recent compilation on febrifuges, has laid it down as a rule that mercury should be continued as long as the stools remain unnatural. Now, according to Dr Armstrong's experience, no general rule can be more erroneous or pernicious, since in many cases the stools are made unnatural, and kept so solely by the administration of mercury day after day, and week after week, to the great prejudice of the patient, as he has repeatedly witnessed. The kind of stool which mercury produces Dr A. has before particularly described; and when any doubt remains on the practitioner's mind from want of sufficient experience on the subject of these changes, he will do well to suspend the mercury for a few days in order to ascertain whether they assume the natural appearance when the morbid effect of the mercury has been removed by time. Dr A. is still partial to the administration of certain mercurials in some ardent forms of acute disorder, in which its judicious administration is most decidedly beneficial; but the effects of this medicine are so modified by the state of the body at the time of its exhibition as to require the closest observation to deduce those practical rules which lead to its judicious employment in all cases where it is really indicated. In particular, he is confident, that it is greatly abused in the British metropolis, both in the chronic affections of children and adults, and next to the use of wine and ardent spirits; in the latter, it is one of the most common causes of deranging the structure of the liver; while in the former (he means in children) it very frequently indeed breaks up the general strength and leads to the development of tubercular disease, or ill-conditioned inflammation, both of which have been confounded under the desultory term scrofula.

SULPHATE OF CHINCHONINE.

The following is the subject of the paper on the sulphate of chinchonine, read before the Royal Academy of Medicine, by M. Baily.

In the month of May last, my colleague, M. Pelletier, sent me some sulphate of chinchonine, and stated, that as the cinchonine calingua was becoming daily more scarce, it was of importance to ascertain whether the cinchonine possessed the same febrifuge properties as the quinine. The moment was extremely favourable for making the experiment, as there was at this time a great number of cases of the remittent and intermittent fever at the Hospital de la Pitié. Before committing the new observations which have occurred to me on the efficacy of this medicine, I think it right to remark, that practitioners, although they were not unanimous in their opinion, had, for the most part, classed the cinchonias, in respect to their efficacy, in the following order:

1. The grey cinchona of Laxa, cinchona officinalis.
2. The red cinchona, the cinchona magnifica of Ruiz and Pavon, or the cinchona obtungisfolia of Mutis.
3. The yellow, or cinchona calisaya, the cinchona cardifolia of Mutis, or the cinchona tuberosa of Vahl.

It was observed that the grey cinchona possessed less decided febrifuge virtues than the red, and the red less than the yellow; but it was admitted, at the same time, that all three species, when given in large doses, moderated the paroxysms of remittent fevers, and quickly arrested the access of intermitents. The admirable discovery of the salifiable bases has since confirmed a classification, founded only on therapeutic results.

In fact, the cinchona officinalis yields, upon analysis, a considerable quantity of cinchonine, and very little quinine; the cinchona magnifica yields an equal quantity of each; and the cordifolia produces a very large proportion of quinine.

In the space of two months, 27 patients were put upon the use of the sulphate of cinchonine, in pills of two grains. They took, generally, 6 or 8 grains in the intervals between the periodic returns of the fever. From the 6th of June to the 12th of July, 16 adults, the subjects of tertian fever, underwent this treatment. The whole duration of these sixteen cases was fifty-nine days, which makes for each of them an average duration of less than four days, or somewhat more than eighty-four hours. It must be understood that the access of fever was suppressed in this short space of time, not that the administration of the remedy was discontinued immediately after the cessation of the symptoms. It is well known, that to prevent a return it must be continued for several weeks after the cure. The most obstinate case was one which lasted 14 days; the least one of 24 hours. In seven cases out of sixteen, the fever yielded quickly to the first dose. Four other patients were cured in three days; one in 5; two in 6; one in 7, and one in 14. In one of the cases, where the symptoms yielded to the first dose, there was a relapse on the sixth day, the salt having been left off too soon. Two returns also took place in four cases which had yielded in 72 hours; one on the sixth and another on the tenth day. One dose was sufficient to check completely the new attack.

From the 17th of June to the 9th of August nine quotidian fevers were cured in 32 days: average duration 32 hours. The most obstinate resisted the remedy six days,—the least two. Two of the nine yielded in 48 hours; three in 72; two in 96; one in 120; one in 144. There was no relapse.

Quotidian fevers are very rare in Paris, especially in the summer season. Only two cases presented themselves; one in the month of June, the other in July. The first was cured in two days, the second in eight.

It may be concluded from the results of these 27 cases, that the sulphate of cinchonine arrests acute affections of a periodic type, quickly and effectually; and that large doses are not necessary, six or eight grains a day, having, in most cases, been found sufficient. It appears, also, that it possesses less irritating properties, and that it may be more generally and safely administered than the sulphate of quinine.

A question here arises: How has the cinchonine hitherto been disposed of in official preparations? No doubt, the most distinguished chemists, who are influenced only by a love of science and a sense of duty, have been in the habit of throwing this substance away with the residue. But may it not be suspected that some less scrupulous druggists have sold it for quinine? I am not willing to impugn credibility or fraud to a druggist, but still it is possible that we may, in many cases, have effected cures with cinchonine which we attributed to quinine. It appears to me that the two salts may be employed indifferently,—and, if they shall be found to be equally efficacious, falsifications will become useless, poverty will have nothing to fear, and the price of the salifiable bases will be less excessive. This will make a most material difference at hospitals, the expenditure of which should be regulated by the strictest economy.—Gazette de Santé.

THE CHEMIST.

We are informed that this work which has sometimes been proposed to the public, is to be changed in its plan so far as to connect with subjects in Chemistry, a complete meteorological journal of the U. States, including thermo-metrical and barometric observations, the quantity of rain, the state and apparent causes of changes in the atmosphere, the relative progress of the seasons and state of vegetation in different parts of the country, and such remarks on the subject of Botany as circumstances may require. We understand that it is a part of the duty of Surgeons at the different military posts in the U. S. to make meteorological returns to the War Department, of which the editor of the Chemist will avail himself. These sources of information which cannot but be ample and correct, will fix a value to the work which will ensure it abundant support. A journal of this kind is a desideratum in the periodical works of our country, and cannot be more useful to any class of readers than physicians.

ON THE DIFFERENCE OF TALENTS AND OF TASTE IN DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS.

To whatever part of nature we turn our attention, we are astonished at the prodigious variety it presents. No two individuals can be found precisely similar in all respects. In the animal kingdom, the eye of the naturalist is constantly detecting new varieties; in the vegetable, the distinctions of shape, colour, and mode of existence are endless; while in the mineral department, where at first sight there seem to be exceptions to the rule, a farther investigation convinces us the contrary. Man, placed as he is at the head of the creation, in whatever light he is viewed, appears in almost endless variety of aspect. Not only are nations, tribes, and individuals distinguished perfectly from one another by physical attributes, such as colour, size, shape, &c. but the intellectual powers, and peculiarities establish differences as perfect, though not quite so obvious, as the former. Nor can this be a matter of surprise, when it is considered how intimate is the connection between the mind and the body; how the mind is affected by the health, habits, and temperament of the body; and the latter by the passions and constitution of the former. Thus the variety of character is not surpassed by that of person. To prove that this is the case, we need only advert to the different opinions which the discussion of any subject draws forth; to the modes of thinking which prevail at any two periods of time; or even to those which are found in different sects at the same period.

Equally various are the tendencies of individuals to the cultivation of particular sciences or arts. We find some who manifest an aptitude for both; some who turn themselves wholly to the former, and others who are completely devoted to the latter. Again, some
manifest a decided preference for one art or science, others for a different one; and it is this bias manifested in a high degree which is called Genius; while all the pleasures we derive from its indulgence, are referred to taste. Thus some men are naturally drawn to those pursuits which occupy the imagination; and others to those which employ and exercise the judgment. There are some who are capable of exercising both these faculties in a high degree; in whom sound judgment and great reasoning powers are united with a lively and proficicent imagination; but these instances are so rare, that they can be viewed only in the light of exceptions. We may remark, that on this natural bias depends our success in any pursuit, and that of two arts nearly allied to each other in character, we may be able to gain great success in one, while we should be doomed to mediocrity in the other. Thus one gifted with a talent for poetry, might in vain attempt to render himself an ornament, however feelingly alive to the charms of eloquence; while another who has all the requisites for an orator, may if he mistake his powers, appear only as an indifferent poet. This remark will hold good even of those who have been said to possess universal genius. Plato, so celebrated as a philosopher, was likewise a poet, but he had the wisdom to perceive that poetry was not his forte; and he consigned to oblivion those pieces which however valuable as proofs of genius, could add nothing to his reputation. Voltaire was for a considerable period devoted to the physical sciences; but at length convinced that he could not be a philosopher, he adopted the advice of Clairaut, and became a Poet. The fact seems to be, that however various the talents with which an individual may be endowed, it is impossible for him to obtain eminence in more than one pursuit, because each art and science requires the exercise of some particular faculty, and one faculty must be cultivated at the expense of others. Universal knowledge is therefore to be viewed as a mere chimera; and its occurrence may be regarded as an established deviation from the order of nature. Every man is best calculated to succeed in the pursuit for which nature has fitted him. Thus one who is endowed with strong powers of reasoning, whose mind turns naturally to the investigation of truth and the detection of error, is calculated to proceed in the abstract sciences; while he might labour in vain to acquire any literary eminence. In fact, nature points out to every man the course which he should pursue; there is a natural bias, a strong taste as it is termed, which leads each one to that pursuit for which he is best fitted; and though this is less decided in some than in others, though a mistaken system of education may have thwarted it in some instances and obscured it in many, still there are very few in whom it fails to exhibit its power and guidance.

We will not deny that those varieties of taste may be connected with the peculiar constitution of the brain, which may fit us for some mental operations, and render us incapable of others. However this may be, there can be no question of the existence of these intellectual distinctions among mankind, distinctions established by nature; which determine some for eminence in certain branches, and others for mediocrity in all; distinctions independent of all the arts of society, which may oppose, but never can impair them. It may be said that faculties which are naturally imperfect, may be improved by education. The memory may be improved by practice; the judgment be rendered more accurate by use. But this influence of education has its limits; and can never proceed so far as to subvert the laws of nature, or render a man great in that for which he never designed him. Education may indeed improve, but she cannot confer talents. She may direct but she cannot create. The imagination and the judgment are both susceptible of cultivation; but where either is absolutely wanting, or possessed in a small degree, we cannot hope fully to supply the defect. "-- Those who have genius (says Crêbillon), can readily learn its tendency; those who have none, need only one precept—not to write. In such, an obstinate attachment to literary pursuits can only lead to disappointment and ridicule; the better advised, set upon such misguided labour, or choose some humbler occupation, which though more humble in its character, will crown their exertions with success, and though it promise not fame, will ensure their respectability and happiness."

For the Medical Intelligencer.

**Biography.**

**Elliot, Rev. Jared,** was the son of the Rev. Joseph Elliot, of Guilford, Conn., and grandson of the Rev. Joseph Elliot, of Roxbury, Mass., the celebrated Indian apostle. He was born Nov. 7, 1682, and died April 22, 1763. He was one of the earliest students of Yale College, and received his bachelor's degree in 1706. From 1730 to 1762 he was one of the Corporation of that institution; and from 1700 to his death was the minister to the first ecclesiastical society of Killingworth. Con. Dr. Elliot was unquestionably the first physician of his day in Connecticut, and, in a sense, may be considered as the father of medicine in that State. He was the first botanist of his time, and was equally distinguished as a scientific and practical agriculturalist. He introduced the white mulberry into Connecticut, and with it the silk worm, and published a treatise upon the subject. He was also a mineralogist, and in 1761 received from a society in London a gold medal, as a premium for his discovery of a process of extracting iron from black sand. He was the personal friend and correspondent of Bishop Berkeley and Dr. Franklin, and of several other philosophical characters both in Europe and America. He was, however, in his life time, more known by the public as a physician, and was very eminent for his judgment and skill in the management of chronic complaints. In these, he appears to have been more extensively consulted, than any other physician in New England, frequently visiting every county of Connecticut, and being often called to Boston and Newport. He was a good linguist, and from the libraries left by him and his contemporaries it is evident, that he was in the habit of reading and studying Hippocrates, Celsius, Galen, Arretius, &c. in the originals. Some very humorous anecdotes are still related, which serve to show, that he managed melancholy and matters with great ingenuity and success. All of Dr. Elliot's science and philosophy were of the practical kind, and adapted to the improvement of his infant country. He published "Agricultural Essay," and devised various plans for draining swamps in the interior, and also for reclaiming marshes from the sea. He was one of the most industrious and methodical men, and was peculiarly careful, that whatever he undertook, should be executed well. It is difficult to conceive how one could be successful in such a variety of pursuits, as those in which he was engaged; for, he seldom if ever failed in any important undertaking. He possessed a very large estate in land, which consisted of farms in different sections of the state, or rather colony. These were generally better cultivated, and furnished more profits, than those of his neighbours. Amidst all his avocations, he was distinguished for his great skill as a clergyman. He published several sermons, and so conscientious was he in the discharge of his duties as a minister, that he always so contrived his journeys, as to be, if possible, with his people every Sunday, and for forty successive years in the course of his ministry, he did not miss preaching either at home or abroad, every Lord's day. Dr. Elliot resided on the main road from New-York to Boston, and was always visited by Dr. Franklin, when he was journeying to his native town, as well as most of the literary and religious characters of his day, who always met with a very affectionate reception in his hospitable mansion. He was distinguished for his charities, and many of his medical services were performed gratuitously. It is mentioned of him, that though an ardent friend of his country, and a great patron of improvements, and though as a clergyman, a philosopher, a physician, and a trustee of Yale College, his influence with the public was very great; and his opinions and advice much esteemed and sought after, yet he always avoided interfering, or taking an active part, in any of the purely political struggles of his day.

Such men as Dr. Elliot are not only highly useful and honourable to the age they live in, but are a blessing to future generations. They give a spring to the human intellect, and excite a spirit of inquiry, experiment and observation; and thus diffuse a light among their cotemporaries, which has an influence upon remote posterity. [See Elliot's Biographical Dictionary, Field's Statistical Account of the County of Middlesex, Connecticut, and some of his correspondence in Silliman's Journal of Science.]

**Indigestion—Eating too fast.**

The most common cause of morbid distension of the stomach is eating too fast; for the appetite only subsiding in proportion as the food combines with, and neutralizes the gastric fluid previously in the stomach; when we eat too fast, before this combination is completed, so much is taken, that the whole gastric fluid which the stomach is capable of supplying during the digestive process is not sufficient to effect the due alteration on it; whereas, when we eat slowly, the appetite abates; while digestion is going on, and the gastric fluid is only supplied in proportion as fresh food comes in contact with the coats of the stomach, it combines with the food as it is formed, and never excites the appetite. The food, when we eat too fast, is not only received into the stomach in too great quantities, but is swallowed without being duly masticated and mixed with saliva, and therefore without properly undergoing what may be considered its first process of digestion, is transmitted to the stomach in a state in which the gastric fluid pervades and consequently acts upon it with more difficulty. In this way eating too fast is injurious even when the patient abstains from taking too much. For these reasons to eat moderately and slowly is of far greater consequence than any other rule of diet. The dyspeptic should...
carefully attend to the first feeling of empty.

There is a moment when the reli in given by the appetite cease; a single mouthful taken after this, oppresses a weak stomach;—he who eats slowly, and carefully attends to this feeling, will never overload the stomach.—Dr. Philip

on Intagination.

PORTRAIT OF MR. ABERNEThY.

We trust our friend does not suffer as much inquietude from the representation of his physical features, as from the reflection of his intellectual image; for though in the present instance he cannot complain of that "minute fidelity" with which the Lancer was reproached, yet if Mr Abernethy should happen to be equally sensible on both points, the resemblance is sufficiently striking to become the source of considerable annoyance. Mr Abernethy's physique—the old Ladies at Apothecaries' Hall must not suppose that we are speaking of blue pill—is marked by peculiarities almost as remarkable as those which distinguish the intellectual character; his visage, in particular, presents a bold and well-defined outline, which an artist of moderate skill can scarcely fail of delineating with some degree of success. Mr Penny has accordingly succeeded in producing a portrait which, without much inaccuracy in its details, or much fidelity in its general effect, still bears a strong resemblance to the original. The noble development of the forehead, and the small, shrewd eye are correctly drawn; but the cheeks are rounded off with a quantity of adipose substance, which certainly does not belong to our friend, and which detracts considerably from the effect which would otherwise be produced by a sufficiently faithful delineation of the upper part of the face. Some skill is exhibited in certain minor points, such as the tie of the neckcloth, and the adjustment of other parts of the Professor's dress. It is a half-length portrait, and Mr Abernethy is supposed to be standing up before the professional chair; in front is a table, on which are placed a human cranium, and a jar containing some morbid preparation; the Professor is moreover represented with his hands in his breeches' pockets, like a crocodile. The expression of the countenance is peculiar, and seems to indicate some degree of mental confusion, probably the artist obtained a sight of the Professor after the following whilom interview.

A Chancery Barrister living for a long time, annoyed by an irritable ulcer on one of his legs, called upon Mr Abernethy for the purpose of obtaining that gentleman's advice. The Counselor judging of an ulcer as of a brief, that it must be seen before its nature could be understood, was busily occupied in removing his stockings and bandages, when Mr Abernethy abruptly advanced towards him, and exclaimed in an stentorian voice, "Hallo! what are you about there?" The Barrister,1 long and tall, Aye, there 'tis, I see—it's mortification! 2 and it's enough,—shut up your leg, man,—shut it up, here, take one of these pills every night on going to bed." The Lawyer put the box of pills into his pocket, handed over a fee, and was about to leave the room, when Mr A. thus accosted him:—"Why didn't you look here, this is but a shilling?" The Barrister sarcastically replied—"Ay, there 'tis, I see it—I'm satisfied, quite enough, quite enough, man,—shut it up!—shut it up!" and hastily quit the room.

The engraving is published at a moderate price, and we recommend the purchase of it to the pupils and admirers of our distinguished eccentric and somewhat irritable friend.—Lanctot.

VARIETIES.

OPHTHALMIC SURGERY.—Cataract.—At the sitting of the French Academy of Medicine, on the 29th of September, Mr. Silvy, of Grenoble, read a case of combined cataract and other diseases of the eye. He made an operation for cataract, and in whom the pupil was completely stopped up by the fragments of the capsule. Mr. Silvy cured the patient by an operation, which consisted in introducing a lancet through the cornea, and the external angle of the eye, at the distance of half an inch from the insertion of the iris, and in bringing the fragments of membrane into the posterior chamber. Mr. Silvy said, that he often tincture in regard to these facts. If they which the French ophthalmic surgeons call the accompaniments of the cataract, by injections of distilled water, slightly thickened. The cause of these fragments remaining in the pupil, is, in Mr. Silvy's opinion, the difficulty of the incision in the cornea, and the risk of making the incision too small is one of the numerous reasons which render Wennel's history preferable to the springing instrument of the surgeon. Maitre Jean and his collaborators have said, that it is not necessary to remove these fragments, as they will disappear in time by the process of absorption; but this precept is only applicable to cases in which the membrane has become adherent to the iris, it would be impossible, in that case, to push with the needle into the posterior chamber, and vision could only be restored by the operation for artificial pupil.

DEATH OF LIFE.—From the most accurate Life Annuity Tables, it appears that the duration of life a century ago, in England, was only three-fourths of what it is at present, and this is the more remarkable as it apparends that the life of a woman is the least to that of her husband than in any other country, for instance 30, were the one to purchase an annuity of 100L. to be enjoyed by the other in widowhood, if the male purchase in behalf of the female, the pension would be reduced, if he was a bachelor of 40, the male purchases in behalf of the wife it would cost but 307L. 1s. 7d. One fact of is surprising: it appears that the loss of life among the poor of the month of July, after the 542 are alive at the mother's next pregnancy—that is, scarcely more than half survive marriage.

HYDROCEPHALUS.—I have known, says Dr Baillie, in my own experience, but one instance of this disease being cured, when fully formed. In this case all the symptoms were well marked, and the disease had made its appearance in the fourth year of life, and was of long duration, and no substantial improvement had taken place. There had been no peculiar treatment, except that mercurial ointment was applied daily to a considerable sore on the upper part of the head, which had been produced there by the obstetrician. The individual is now a large andBarrister, and being lady of good talents, which she has highly cultivated.

DISCOVERY IN NATURAL HISTORY.—In the month of October last, Mr Willibald, of Liching, near Greta bridge, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, whilst taking a survey of that district of country, discovered cockles (the cardium edule) of different ages, in a living state, at the bottom of drains, in a pond near a mill, situated on a fresh water. This position is about 40 miles from any sea, and, much above its level.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.—M. Dupuytren lately delivered a lecture on the question of the natural history of yellow fever, he being charged, with Messrs Portal and Magendie, with the examination of the material on that subject by Mr. Costa. He observed that they were not of opinion that M. Costa had by any means proved the non-contagion, nor should any of the sanitary measures be relaxed, until its "mathematically" proved that contagion is but a chimera of the human. Many new light were brought into play on the side of the non-contagionists, which may prove useful. Corda sanitatres are approved by these gentlemen, but not to be bound too close round the evil; it being found absolutely necessary to have a large number of cockles in a dark place; digest it, when dry, in strong alcohol for a few minutes, applying heat; separate the solution, which, by cooling and after evaporation, will yield lye, and by means of this, it may be etched and stained with a pale straw colour.—Gaz. d'His. viii. 218.

RESPIRATION.—The two processes of inspiration and expiration, whether complete or not, while the body is at rest, about twenty times in a minute. If, therefore, we adopt, from Dr Mezze's experiments, forty cubic inches as the average bulk of air inhaled, in addition thereto, that a man of average size inspires 40,000 cubic inches in an hour, or 144,000 cubic inches in the course of a day; a quantity equal to about 70 hogsheads.

ROYAL MEDALS.—Mr Peal, at the last anniversary dinner of the Royal Society, announced that his Majesty had placed two annual medals, of the value of 50 guineas each, at the disposal of the council of the Royal Society, and distributed them by rewards for scientific discoveries.

LOYD'S LONDON SOCIETY.—This society met on 1st and 15th of November, when the following paper was read: "Observations on the Uninpregnated Vegetable Ovum" and on the "Nature of the Female Flower in Conform and Cyandas," by Robert Brown, Esq. F. L. S., F. D. S., &c.

COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—Upwards of one thousand surgeons, &c. met on Saturday at Freemasons' Tavern, to open the new year with a charter of two hundred and nine surgeons, which, as they stated, conferred privileges on that body detrimental to science, and complaining of various abuses and grievances exercised by the court of examiners.

NATIONAL HISTORY.—5th.—A Madras Journal describes a snuff found near Aracan, of such extraordinary dimensions, that the question was raised, whether it was that of one wing, to the tip of the other; and also beautiful in colours.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending April 7th; from the Health-Office Returns. March 31st.—Ann H. Jenkins, 16. April 1st.—Robert Banker, 82. 2d.—Robert Armstrong, 5. 3d.—Catharine Atkin, 77; Sophia Crombie, 31 2d.—Matthew Bassie, 6. 4th.—Elizabeth Bagshaw, 73; George Bagshaw, 72; Lydia Bentley, 37; w Duncan Cameron: Betsy McCriskey, 5. 7th.—George Nixon, 7. 8th.—Mary Russell, 21; John Jones Chadway, 19 mo; Rebecca Riddell, 86; Elizabeth, 30; John Fish, 30; Samuel Fisher, 30; Samuel Miller; Samuel Beck, 3 days; Margaret Wynn, 55; Polly Newell, 4 months.

Accidental, 1—Burn, 2—Consumption, 3—Cancer, 1—Cholera, 1—Dropical Fever, 1—Delirium Tremens, 1—Drowned, 1—Influenza, 1—Infantile, 1—Inflammation of the Bowels, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Stillborn, 1—Typhus, 1—Ulcer of the Head, 1.
The winter of 1825 will long be recollected as one of the mildest but most unhealthy seasons, that has occurred in New England for a series of years. We had little sleighing, and but two or three falls of snow of any consequence. The weather in January was generally dry and cool. The nights especially, were uncommonly clear and pleasant, and never was there a more heavy and brilliant evening than that which beam'd upon us on the fourth of the month. The moon and the stars shone most resplendently, and every object far and near, was distinguished as clearly as on a moonlight. In every direction around us and about us, persons were seen gaping upwards and smiling at the beauty of the heavens—and after the arrival of the noble particularly, crowds of the citizens were collected together at the corners of the streets, exchanging the news from ten to twelve o'clock, and reading their papers and letters, with the same facility, and seemingly with greater pleasure, than they would have experienced by the light of the noon-day sun. Towards the close of the month we had rainy weather and bad travelling. At the commencement of February a severe storm occurred, which continued two days or more—but the weather was afterwards mild, and remained so till the end of the month, when it closed as it opened, with a tremendous fall of snow. This however, soon disappeared. March was accompanied with great, and sudden changes of atmosphere. North East winds prevailed, and were very troublesome. To many people they proved a source of temporary ill health and to some of lingering and ultimately fatal disease. The robin with which we is the harbinger of spring, appeared this season before the middle of the month, but was obliged to secrete itself from subsequent cold, and disagreeable storms, or seek shelter under a nilder sky, to return sumnopophthirr. April and May were mild, dry and pleasant, and one small rain only happened from the last of February to the beginning of May, when vegetation began to assume that peculiar freshness and beauty, so natural to the spring climate of New England. June and July were uncommonly warm—the middle of each month was oppressively hot, and we experienced a greater extreme and duration of heat at this period, than heretofore, perhaps, been felt in this part of our country. Through the month of July, the thermometer in the shade, ranged from 70 to 90 degrees, in the middle of the day, while in the night it seldom fell below 60. From the 8th to the 22d, excepting one day only, it was not below 80 degrees at noon. On the 10th the mercury stood at 93 and on the 12th it rose to 100. The average heat for the whole month was upwards of 80. Several tempests occurred during the month, accompanied with severe thunder and lightning. Those on the 10th and 21st commenced suddenly towards evening, and continued for several hours. They were attended with violent rain and thunder, and as vivid lightning, as we had ever experienced in our northern climate. August was also very warm—the average heat for the month being between 75 and 80. Autumn was exceedingly pleasant. Indeed, the summer and autumn throughout New England, were unusually delightful, warm and luxurious. Fruit was never more plenty, and the early and latter harvest was rich and everywhere abundant.

A Journal of the weather for the year gives the 13th of December last as the coldest day. The mercury at the lowest stood at 12 below 0, and did not rise above it for the day.

During the wet weather, about the middle and close of January, Inflammation of the bowels frequently occurred, and in several cases proved obstinately severe. Rheumatism was very common. Catarlar infections of great severity also occurred, but were speedily merged in the general epidemic influenza, which in this and several succeeding months, appeared universally throughout our country. This disease, though not quite so fatal perhaps, in this vicinity, as in many other towns, especially on the seaboard, was quite as general, and lingered as long with us in as in most other places where it continued epidemic. On its first appearance it was mild, but soon spread and became alarming and severe. Few escaped its influence. The infant, adolescent and adult, were seized indiscriminately, and seldom passed through the disease without medicine or the aid of a physician. This epidemic continued through the spring and occasional cases were seen among us, as late as the middle or last of May.

Lung Fever was also common at this season. It was oftentimes quite independent of Influenza, at others, very obviously a consequence of this epidemic. It generally required prompt, but mild and soothing remedies. Few deaths occurred from the immediate effects of the disease, though some, we believe, were left in a state of great debility, and others, whose dangerous and perhaps fatal illness may be correctly traced to this period, when the atmospheric influence was most universally determined to inflammation of the lungs.

Early in the spring Inflammation of the Eyes was quite common. Several cases came to our notice, which were sudden, and required medical assistance. Persons who retired in the evening quite well, awoke in the morning with one or both eyes suffused with blood, swollen and painful, and which could not be exposed either to the light of air, without much inconvenience, and suffering. Cooling aperients were given, and the only topical application found necessary was a mucilage of Balsam plant, which is a very agreeable and useful preparation for acute inflammation of the eyes, and other organs, and uniformly affords speedy and effectual relief.

Cholera Morbus and Cholera Infantum an alarming and fatal character, next appeared, and carried in their train a greater number of victims, than have died of similar diseases for many years past. The bill of mortality of this complaint especially, is greater, I believe, than for any preceding year.

Small Pox appeared again this season—and is somewhat humiliating to the profession and not a little provoking within, to be obliged to report a fatal case of this disease. The subject of it was a mariner, who was ill a few days and sent to the Hospital, where he died. A second one made its appearance soon after, but under what circumstance I am unable to say. The patient was a female domestic, whose case excited some degree of sympathy at the time, but as she recovered and escaped from the Hospital, the Board of Health made no report of it to the public, and shadows, clouds and darkness rest upon it.

Bilious Diarrhoea and Dysentery next occurred, and though some cases were reported as alarming and fatal, I saw none, in whom early and judicious remedies were administered, who did not pass safely through the disease and ultimately recover.

Typhus, as usual, prevailed through the summer and autumn—a summary and precious piece
CASE OF COSTIVENESS.

To the Editor of the Med. Intelligencer.

Sir,—The following history of a case of constipation which fell under my care last summer, may possibly throw a ray of light upon the pathology of some of those obscure hepatic affections which Dr. Ewens met with in practice, but not so far as I have seen, very well defined by medical writers.

August 9th, A. M., J. N., 30, complained of severe pain with soreness over the abdomen, but more particularly a little about the pubes; has vomited several times, and has occasional hiccough; constipation very pale and expressive of much anxiety; tongue pale but clean; pulse natural. Pain commenced yesterday, for which he took a dose of Epsom salts, and had several fluid stools, but without relief. Directed him to take ten grains of calomel, to be followed in two hours by an ounce of castor oil. In the afternoon finding that his stomach had rejected the oil; that his bowels had not moved, and that the pain above the pubes was considerably increased; twelve ounces of blood were drawn from the arm, the calomel was repeated, an enema ordered, and tincture of opium directed to be rubbed upon the abdomen. 10th. A. M. No alvine discharge, secretion of urine nearly suspended, and the little voided, high coloured, and passed with pain; hiccup more frequent; stomach sickness a little at a time; castor oil, the same as before, with 31. of aloes and 15. of drops of Croton oil, were made into 20 pills, of which he was directed one every hour. In the evening vomiting was more frequent, and the patient complained much of the bad taste and smell of the fluids ejected, which were of a brownish green colour, tinged probably with aloes and scrommony. The pain and hiccough were very distressing. An additional dose of ten grains of calomel was now given, and repeated at bed-time, with a view to its ultimate effect on the bowels which had failed to its cathartic operation. Foetidations were applied to the lower bowels, and an epispastic over the stomach, emetica were frequently repeated, and when the pain was most acute the application of a heated platter gave temporary relief. The patient's suffering had now however become so great that two grains of opium were given at bed time. 11th. A. M. A considerable abatement of pain from the opiate; vomiting and hiccough less frequent; discharge of urine increased but of a yellowish colour, bowels still immovable. The patient had been taken 16 of the pills prescribed the preceding day, but without the desired effect. He was thirsty, but the liquids swallowed were quickly returned, and the calomel was probably the only medicine that remained on the stomach; there were no indications of speedy relief. The four remaining pills were taken this morning, and about noon he swallowed 3 II. of oil of turpentine incorporated with water by means of the yolk of an egg. Ten minutes after he vomited, and the greater part was now vomited, giving rise to the idea that this was the vomiting ceased, and two hours afterwards there was a copious defaecation, very dark coloured, and very offensive. Similar discharges occurred several times the ensuing night. These evacuations were followed by great relief; yet the pains did not entirely cease, and an anodyne was given at night. 12th. Bowels loose; defecations very dark coloured; pain and soreness entirely gone; appetite returning. He was directed to keep the bowels free by a daily laxative, and to take, for a few days, an infusion of quassia. From this time he was convalescent, and soon attended to his business. This man's habitual paleness of countenance bespoke hepatic disease, and by inquiring I learned that his bowels were constantly slow, and feces very dark coloured. His appetite too had long been fickle, and he felt almost daily slight pains about the abdomen, or between the shoulders; but from this time his complaints did not hinder him from attending to his daily avocations. The croton oil did not in this case manifest those active cathartic powers which I had been led to expect from it; and although this with the other remedies did not exerted considerable influence in overcoming the disease, yet the oil of turpentine seemed the more immediate cause of exciting the peristaltic motion of the bowels. Calomel, though so freely given, did not affect the mouth, yet in this case I should have been pleased to have witnessed such a proof of its constitutional operation.

The relief now experienced, though complete as it respected the constipation and its concomitant symptoms, was but partial in regard to the liver. There was no change in the liver, the feces contained very dark coloured; the skin retained its pale hue, and the urine had still too deep a tinge. The patient however attended to his business for a few days without further complaint; but on the 17th I was again requested to see him, and found him in the same condition as in the first attack. There was a little more arterial excitement than before, and his tongue was slightly coated. The pains in the abdomen, stomach sickness, and hiccough were again very distressing. A strong cathartic pill, calomel, gr. j. colocynt, gr. v. was directed to be given every second hour, which was faithfully administered until the next day. Finding in the morning that no relief had been obtained, and that he was constantly throwing up whatever stomach was capable of rejecting; I gave him at once twenty grains of calomel, and as he declined swallowing another dose of the oil of turpentine, an ounce of it was directed to be diffused in a quart of water, and administered by injection.

In the evening, at my request, Dr. Miner visited the patient with me. The vomiting had nearly ceased; a slight mucus discharge from the emetica; but the general symptoms still very urgent. At Dr. Miner's suggestion, ten grains of calomel were given every second hour, and an infusion of senna with manna as soon as the stomach could be made to retain it. 19th. No dejection; gums, turgid and sore; has not vomited since last evening; pains unabated. One oz. of senna with two of manna being infused in half a pint of boiling water, he was ordered to take the infusion in divided doses. Calomel discontinued the afternoon. Dr. M. saw the patient in the evening and the next morning again. Except in the cessation of vomiting the disease was unabated. The bowels seemed quite immovable. Thus baffled in all our attempts to overcome the constipation, and the patient's situation becoming manifestly alarming, Dr. M. now proposed bleeding ad libitum, with a view to the favourable change so often effected during that state of universal relaxation. The patient was accordingly raised up,
and when he had lost about 12 ounces of blood he became faint, and was suffered to lie down. Almost immediately he called for the close-stool, and had a copious semisolid fuscous discharge, as dark coloured and offensive as in his first attack. These discharges were repeated several times in the course of the night, and always of the same colour. No scybala were observed at any time. The dark appearance continued for several days, but at length changed to yellow, which was considered as evidence of an improved secretion of bile, and affording a hope of a more permanent cure. The merial action as evinced by the state of the mouth, was moderate, and to prevent it from subsiding too soon he was ordered a dozen blue pills, one to be taken every night. He was soon convalescent, and continues free from disease.

In this case the functions of the liver appear to have been much disordered; one of the consequences of which was an obstinate constipation of the bowels, and from which a permanent cure could only be obtained by the peculiar action of mercury upon the tordip vessels of the liver. It is worthy of remark that the vomiting and likewise the hicouche, which had all along been such troublesome symptoms, and of which there was no abatement while calomel was given in doses of two grains, ceased almost immediately when the dose was considerably augmented. The effect produced by the loss of blood from the arm upon the peristaltic motion of the bowels, was in this case no less sudden and decisive than that which I have since learned has been the uniform effect of the application of leeches on the hemorrhoidal veins, in similar cases of constipation. Some degree of faintness is probably indispensable to the production of the wished for result, from whatever part; or by whatever means blood may be drawn.

New York, April 1826. THOMAS CLOSE.

OBSERVATIONS.

TUSSIS SENILES.

A cough which in young persons would excite great alarm, and could not exist long without affecting the substance of the lungs, and producing confirmed phthisis, often affects aged persons for a long succession of years, without exciting apprehension or being considered worthy of medical treatment. No very serious or permanent disease of the lungs either accompanies or is produced by this cough, and we cannot think with the generality of persons that it is altogether owing to the diminished susceptibility of age. Were this the sole reason, why should we not see it efficient in other complaints as well as this? Why should old men be so extremely debilitated and depressed by disorders which the vigor and elasticity of youth sustain with firmness? Why should they so often and so suddenly cut off by a cold in mid winter, or a dysentery in summer—or by a lung fever or diarrhoea in any season? These most evidently be some peculiarity in this cough which does not exist in such as we are liable to in earlier years.

What this peculiarity is, we feel ourselves incommen- tate to decide. It might at first view appear to be spasmodic, but diseases of this class are rare in old age—it is the young, and generally the most vigorous who are generally the most subject to them; we cannot suppose, therefore, that a disease can be of this nature from which the young are exempt, and which attacks exclusively, persons advanced in life. It has appeared to us frequently that this cough is produced by the existence, in the mucous membrane, of a specific inflammation, which is not in its nature liable to spread, or be extended. This opinion seems to be sanctioned by a fact which we have often noticed, that this cough frequently alternates with some disease of the skin, which in itself exists for years—often for life in a certain spot, and never extends itself beyond its original limits. We have in view at this moment three cases of this nature; the complaint of the surface sometimes disappears, at which time the cough comes on, and remains violent and unceasing for many months, when it is relieved on, and we think by, the reappearance of the cutaneous derangement.

Common inflammation occurring on any part of the surface, exhibits a tendency to spread. Indeed it does always spread more or less, and, unless its progress is interrupted, it goes through its regular and successive stages in a definite period. The specific inflammation, on the other hand, which constitutes the cutaneous disease alluded to, is essentially a different history. It remains in its first appearance—not extending, or exhibiting any tendency to extend beyond its original limits, nor assuming any different appearance from that it first presented. Thus does it remain for years. This peculiarity, therefore, is in the inflammation, and not in the part affected. If this specific inflammation attack the mucous membrane, we should expect, therefore, it would exhibit the same character, since, as far as the spreading of inflammatory action is concerned, the two structures are alike. And that this is the species of derangement which produces the old man’s cough, appears not only rendered probable by the analogy we have traced, but strongly confirmed by the fact that the two complaints often alternate with each other. Sometimes the skin only is affected at any time—and in other cases the complaint shews itself nowhere but in the mucous membrane.

It remains for us now to say why, if the opinion above expressed is well-founded, this enduring and unchanging complaint exists in the aged only. It is too commonly known to be here repeated that in youth the blood is thrown with force and vigor to all the extremities. The cheeks exhibit the freshness and the hue of beauty, and the roundness and smoothness of the whole surface show that the energies of the system are diffused. The natural centrifugal tendency is strong, and thus are chronic cutaneous complaints prevented from recurring. But in old age this tendency is wonderfully diminished. A trifling cause will produce metastasis and give rise to the tussis senilis.

TIGHT DRESSING.

One of the most striking fallacies of mankind in the present day, is the stupid homage they pay to fashion. In one part of the world, a bandage is early bound about the feet of small children, to prevent their discovery by stopping their growth; in another, two bands are placed on the head in infancy, one behind and the other before, and tied together at the point, elongate, and beautify the cranium. In our own country, the "human form divine" is displayed by the application of spindles and bandages, as though the form of the支撑 apparatus could be improved by being confined in the surgeon’s apparatus for dressing broken bones.

Stomach beards stiffen the body and destroy the easy and graceful motions for which it is by nature so admirably fitted; they moreover tend much to the displacement of parts which in their natural situation and form add greatly to female beauty. Tight dressing, with or without stomach beards, prevents the free motion of the ribs necessary to easy breathing, confines the lungs, and diminishes the chamber in which the heart beats as it fills with blood, and frequently interrupts its action and produces fainting. From this practice arises difficult breathing, palpitation, acute or low inflammatory actions which are liable to result in admissions of congestive parts, pain in the side, cough and consumption.

This practice has its effects, too, upon the organs in the upper part of the abdomen, particularly the stomach and liver. Compression, here exerted, impedes the delicate processes going on in these organs, the natural and easy condition of which is essential to health. In this way a foundation is laid for dyspepsia, with its train of attendant, wind-bellching, heart-burn, hypochondriasis and dyspeptic consumption.

When tight dressing is adopted, as it often is, at the age of 11, 12, or 13, its mischievous effects are in a great measure irreparable. The capacity of the chest is permanently diminished, so that during the natural growth of those parts which are confined, the lungs are prevented from evolving to their natural and necessary extent, thus establishing a permanent disproportion between the breathing and circulating systems, or between the greater and lesser circulations. This disproportion generates derangement of function in vital organs, which tends to produce a diseased structure that medicine cannot remove.

The principal object in employing the tight dressing apparatus, is to bring about such an alteration in the form of the body as to throw it out of all natural proportion. This alteration, however satisfactory it may be to the individual, is a violation of acknowledged principles of beauty. An inspection of the exquisite models of Grecian sculpture which have come down to us, and which, because true to nature, have stood the test of criticism for twenty centuries, and still command the homage of genius, as combining all that delights in native symmetry or elegant proportion, clearly shows the absurdity of that standard which distorts the finest forms, changes them into a resemblance of certain insect tribes, and combines and sickens at the richest and fairest proportions with which the God of nature has blessed the world.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

After the minutes of the preceding meeting had been read, the case* of the poor woman on whom the operation of trussing was performed was brought before the society in a paper written by Mr Doubleday.

This excited a very interesting discussion, which is adjourned to next Monday evening. We understand Dr Blundell will be present.

The great majority of those who spoke on the occasion were decidedly of opinion that the recovery of the woman was not attributable to the operation. The arguments made use of in support of this opinion were the following—

1st. The operation was not performed until six hours after the hemorrhage had ceased; the probability was, therefore, that she would have survived without the operation.

2d. During the period of the cessation of the bleeding and the operation, stimuli of various kinds had been administered. She had taken twenty ounces of brandy, 100 drops of mixture of

* See Medical Intelligence, vol. iii. page 176.
opium, ammonia, three eggs, beef tea, gruel, &c. Her recovery might be attributed to these. The opinion of Mr. C. Clark was brought forward. In his lectures he says that no woman will die from uterine haemorrhage, if bread and milk and ammonia are administered freely.

2d. It was said that the change for the better was immediately to be attributed to the operation. The injection of the whole 14 ounces of blood did not occupy above ten minutes; yet when two ounces had been thrown in, Mr Doubleday said that the countenance was improved; when four ounces had been injected, the pulse was broader, and she opened and shut her eyes with more force; at the end of the sixth ounce she said she was as strong as a bull. Now it was urged that the quantity of blood injected was not sufficient to explain the improvement of the patient.

To these objections it was replied:—

1st. That although six hours had elapsed between the haemorrhage and the operation, yet at the time it was performed the woman appeared sinking; and that in those cases of uterine haemorrhage which terminated fatally, some hours always elapsed between the cessation of the haemorrhage and the death of the patient; in the cases that were mentioned, the period was one in three, in the other ten hours.

2d. The recovery of the patient should not be attributed to the stimuli given; for these only produced a temporary effect. After each dose of brandy the pulse rose, but again sunk in a few minutes. That these measures were persevered in for a sufficient time, and that they were administered in sufficient quantities, to give them a fair trial, yet the woman was sinking, and it was the opinion both of Dr Blundell and Mr Doubleday that she could not survive the operation.

3d. That the change for the better was not attributable to any other cause than transfusion; and that it was not too immediate to be ascribed to the operation. No very decided good effects were observed until six ounces were injected. Every other means had been tried without success.

4th. As to the apparent strength which the woman exhibited when Dr Blundell attempted the operation, such a state was always obtained in the cases of uterine haemorrhage which terminated fatally. In one case, mentioned by Mr Doubleday, it required several persons to confine the patient in bed, yet this woman died from flooding.

Such were the arguments, pro and con, in this case.

Mr Lloyd said, that transfusion itself was a most dangerous operation; that it was practised from the year 1600 to 1600, both in England and France, with human blood as well as that of other animals; and again, that diseases might be produced in this manner. So dangerous was this, that such an extent it was carried in France, that the Government issued an edict forbidding its use.

To this it was replied, that in those cases human blood was not used, but that of other animals, which Dr Blundell said was injurious. The danger of propagating diseases was not to be compared with that of haemorrhage.

**VARIETIES.**

**Small Pox.**—This terrible malady, the scourge of our ancestors, the minister of death, to whom it was thought that Jenner had given the death-blow, has made its appearance in London, this last year, decidedly with the power of its precedents. The smallpox, as reported in the bills of mortality, are 1,299 whereas the average of the four preceding years was but 653. At the Small Pox Hospital the admissions during the preceding year, 1,674, being considerably more than double the number of those that occurred in London, exhibited the average number of admissions in the last five and twenty years, and approaching very nearly the number admitted in 1796, when smallpox was supposed to be more general and fatal in London than at any former period. The influence of vaccination, however, in lessening the general mortality of this epidemic, was great and most unequivocal; the deaths according to the last three months' returns are not more than one-third of those in 1796, and the consequences of the disease diminished but very little public anxiety. In no town in the world, perhaps, is the proportion of vaccinated children so large as in London. The reason is obvious; the contagion of smallpox, which only visits country towns occasionally, is always present in London, seeking whom it may devour, and consequently the incentives to exertion on the part of parents are here much greater. The inoculation, however, is put forth in public health as a means of preventing and preventing the diseases of the country. But because the facilities of obtaining the vaccine lymph are very great in London, and the trouble to parents therefore very slight; while no expense whatever is incurred by those who do not wish to take it.

During the months of July, August and September, smallpox was very fatal all over London, and at that period many vaccinated persons took the disease. Of those that died at the Small Pox Hospital, there had previously had the cow-pox. In almost all these cases, where the evidence of the preceding vaccination was complete, the subsequent disease was modified, that is, cut short in its progress, and more than halved. Thirty of them had it so very mild, that it was rather chicken pox than smallpox, and would, without doubt, have been so designated thirty years ago, before vaccination was known. In about an equal number of cases the eruption was found to be slightly more severe, and in several instances fatal; but the evidence of vaccination was there, for the most part, very defective, and the friends of the patient had, not unfrequently, dropped it to be vaccinated. In many the disease was attended with a subsequent vaccination. Upon the whole, the evidence which the hospital-records of 1822 presented was complete, as to the positive benefits of vaccination. It is a most striking and important fact, that while smallpox was thus extending its contagion in all parts of London, the antidote kept pace with the bane. 4003 persons were vaccinated at the Small Pox Hospital alone during the course of 1823, being about one 60th of the total numbers born in London, and exceeding by above 600— the greatest number hitherto on the books of the establishment. This fact appears to be quite decisive in favor of vaccination. Such an application for vaccination would not thus have increased, unless the public were satisfied with the kind and degree of protection which that process gives against the most formidable of all diseases.

**Examination of the Body of General Fox.**—General Fox was 50 years of age; he had a strong constitution and a fine organization, but his heart was naturally large and extremely active. This circumstance rendered him subject to palpitations, to a decided trembling of the extremities, and a rapidity of determining the arteries of the brain. He had been long under the care of Mr. Broussis, who has communicated the following particulars respecting the examination of the heart and lungs with his permission. The heart was found to be twice as large as in the natural state, softened, and verged with congealed blood, which it had not the power of conveying into the circulation. The great artery, called the aorta, which rises from the base of this organ, to the blood into all parts of the body, was much dilated, thickened, and covered in the interior with numerous ulcerations to the extent of eight inches. The lungs were healthy, but the viscera of the abdomen were tender and the muscles of the thighs, in a truly infantile state. We thus the hypertrophy of the heart, which of itself might occasioned only such slight inconveniences as regimen and to-morrow might have rendered compatible with a long life, when it was added to necrosis, with chronic inflammation of the aorta. This examination of the body offers many points of resemblance to the case of Mire-Beau.—Gazette de Santé, December 5.

**Artificial Ice.**—Messrs Robinson and Henry presented a Report to the Section of Pharmacy, on a Mixture of M. Couridemouche, chemist at Caen, respecting a new artificial ice. This Mixture consists in mixing four pounds of sulphuric acid with five pounds of the sulphate of soda in powder; the acid must be made at 36°, and this is done by diluting five pounds of the acid with 60 deg. with 5.5 parts of water. Instead of acid, the residue of ether at 33 deg. may be employed; the proportions are four pounds four ounces of the residue weakened to that degree to five pounds 6 ounces of the sulphate of soda.—Gaz. de Santé.

**Thorina, not a Distinct Earth.**—M. Reselius has ascertained that the substance which he described 10 years ago, as a new earth, does not merit that distinction. Although, here we are told, the liquid exhibited a beautiful blue, we are glad of this correction, and think, that in the present state of chemistry, the man who strikes an earth or metal out of the list, deserves more thanks than he be put one on.

**Stomach-Pump.**—Another instance of the insensible value of the stomach-pump has been performed at Newport, Monmouthshire. A Mrs Trevelyan, mo- nites unknown, took a large quantity of white precipitated mercury. The pump was procured, and the poi- sonous draught so completely extracted, that she was able to follow her usual occupation in a few days.

To Correspondents. — A case of Meas from the collections of the publishing committee of the New Hampshire Medical Society, is received and shall appear soon.

**Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston.**

Ending April 14th; from the Health-Office Returns. April 8th. — Elizabeth Ellis, 40; Infant child of Ann Bond; Eliza J. Harper, 2; Ruth — Hugh Mefflin, 5; John B. Adams, 5; John E. Edson, 2; Eliza West, 1; Mary Holmes, 47; Mary B. Allen, 33; Sarah Boney, 37; Maria A. Robinson, 10 mo. 10. — Mary A. E. Peckman, 4; Elizabeth Brown, 58; Andrew J. Conner, 13 years. — John Bragg, 7; William F. Clark, 15; Adam Smil, 63; Francis F. Hastings, 19 mo. 12th — William C. Lake, 8 mo. 13th; Sarah S. Thompson, 4; Mary Anna Dans, 1; Margaret Anderson, 2; 14th. — Christopher Rowley, 2; Drowned, 1-Dropsy in the Brain, 1 — Canker, 2 — Inflammation in the Stomach, 1 — Dislocation in the Hip Joint, 1 — Dipsy in the Head, 2 — Throat Distem- per, 1 — Apoplexy, 1 — Lock Jaw, 1 — Inflammation in the Bowels, 1 — Dipsy in the Chest, 1 — Fits, 1 — Worms, 1 — Lung Fever, 2; City Poor, 2.

**Atheneum:**

**Or, Spirit of the English Magazines.**

*For April 15, 1823*

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**Contents:**


Published on the 1st and 15th of every month, at five dollars per annum.
OBSERVATIONS.

CHRONIC AFFECTIONS.

Which are commonly called Dyspepsia, Disorders of the digestive organs, and indigestion.

(Concluded from page 190.)

TORPOR OF THE LIVER.

Torpor of the liver, or a defect of the biliary secretion, often depends upon coldness of the surface, occasioned by too light clothing, or by the sudden changes of our atmosphere, which so powerfully affect the skin. Sometimes it arises from meanness of diet, those persons being more susceptible than those who take a due proportion of animal food. Very frequently it arises from depressing passions, or from sedentary habits, often from the use of ardent spirits, and sometimes it follows a torpid condition of the colon, or an irritative one of the mucous membrane of the stomach or small intestines. Torpor of the liver, even when its structure is entire, is followed occasionally by a contrary state, namely, an excessive secretion of bile, and sometimes it ends in an attack of acute subacute, or chronic inflammation of that organ. Torpor of the liver is denoted by a deficiency of bile in the evacuations; the spirits are usually depressed, the surface cool, the pulse flagging, the tongue slightly furred, and the appetite for the most part deficient, the food being often oppressive, like a load, in the stomach for some time after it has been taken. Occasionally the patient is liable to sickness, and sometimes vomits bile green or yellowish, and of a bitter taste; and when the torpor is simple, when it exists without any organic change, which is most frequently the case, the daily use of a warm bath, with a little salt in it, clothing the surface with flannel, regular exercise, and an astringent pill, with the extract of gentian, will mostly remove it; and when these means fail, a grain or two of calomel may be given every night, or every second night; in addition, till a flow of green or yellowish bile succeed, and then it should be omitted. As preventive, an animal diet, warm bathing, proper clothing, and regular exercise, are the best, but the solution of chlorine, where the strength has failed, in some bitter infusion, such as gentian, has an excellent effect.

CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER.

Chronic inflammation of the liver sometimes affects the organ sometimes it is the sequela of an acute or subacute inflammation, but oftener it arises insidiously as an original affection. The only discernible upon which the main reliance is to be placed, is pain on pressure in the region of the small or large lobe; though some of the following symptoms are usually attendant, such as a deficiency or depravity of bile, pain about the shoulder, disturbed appetite, affecting the forehead, stiffness about the eyes, sense of uneasiness, or oppression, at the lower and middle part of the sternum, and sometimes cough; the urine in some cases, as well as the stool, being bilious, and the tongue being mostly coated with a yellowish white fur at the root and centre. Many persons walk about while they labour under chronic inflammation of the liver, and while this is the case, the cure can seldom be accomplished; but rest in the recumbent posture, moderate general and local bleeding, mild saline purges, mixed with a few grains of the powdered bulb of colchicum, with a spure diet, will mostly remove this affection without the assistance of mercury, but an occasional dose of the latter will accelerate the cure, but a few attempts at hope. On recovery, the patient should keep the surface warm, and abstain from all distended and fermented liquors. In some of these instances, when neglected, Dr. A has known suppuration to take place in the substance of the liver, but even then it is not necessarily hopeless, for when adhesions have taken place between the peritoneal surface of the liver, and that of the abdominal coverings inside, an operation sometimes saves the patient, an example of which he detailed, where an opening was made into the side, and a large quantity of pus discharged, the patient having gradually recovered afterwards. He remarks, that some works have been published on disorders of the liver, but particularly recommends that of Dr. Ayre, the illustrations in which more nearly approach to the results of his own experience.

Dr. Armstrong makes some remarks on organic affections of the liver, and points out two—a hard, shrunk, grey granular state, with a varicose condition of the veins, and the common tubercular state of the organ, both of which has sanction, from the histories he has taken and the dissections he has made, are far more frequently the product of the abuse of mercury than is commonly known to the profession; and he strongly cautions his pupils against the abuse of this medicine, which some speculative authors recommend in all cases where the digestion is affected, without ever having corrected the fallacy of their pathological conjectures by test of its practical results. It is dangerous, he says, to come to the belief with certain preconceptions that the complaint must necessarily be of this or of that nature. Every case should be investigated minutely through facts alone, and the principles of pathology and practice deduced accordingly. He warmly protests against that system of regular quackery which leads some men to pronounce an opinion at once from the appearance of the tongue, and abruptly to stop all inquiry into the minutia, from whichalone a true opinion can be deduced, and a rational and successful practice established. Such conduct, he observes, can only result from an affection which is despicable, or an eccentricity which is pitiable; but whether from one or the other, it ought never to be imitated by medical pupils or practitioners, whose business it is to be most minute observers, since they have to deal with a species of evidence so obscure as to require all the aids of the most diligent observation and the most deliberate reflection to understand it. It is not judicious, and having noticed affections of the spleen and pancreas, concludes by some general observations on the morbid condition of the skin, mucous membrane, and liver, which he considers often combined in those cases called marasmus in children, and dyspepsia in adults; yet as one or other of these parts is very liable to be separately affected, and as this affection may be different in its nature as well as seat, so he recommends his pupils not to adopt an empirical mode of practice, but to vary it judiciously, as the circumstances of each particular case require.

EXPERIMENTS UPON ANIMALS.

A most valuable source of physiological knowledge is one which has been abundantly denounced in the Senate, at the bar, and even from the pulpit,—that of experiments upon animals; but wanton and cruel experiments, such as are justified by the object we have in view in instituting them. They who object to the putting of animals to death for this purpose do not reflect that the animal is a very different thing from that of a man. To an animal, death is an eternal sleep; to man, it is the commencement of a new and unfitted state of existence. Can no object whatever justify us in putting animals to pain? Are not the very persons who raise these objections in the habit of torturing animals in hunting? Do they not murder pheasants and massacre partridges? Is not pain daily and hourly inflicted on the inferior animals to contribute to the support or the pleasure of man, and shall it be fastidiously objected to, when inflicted for the purpose of advancing physiological and medical knowledge? Shall it be said that the objects of physiological science are not worth the sacrifice of a few animals? Men are constantly forming the most erroneous estimates of the comparative importance of objects in this world. What influence has the battle of Actium on the deities of mankind? What is the battle of Trafalgar to a thousand years hence? Of what importance is it to mankind now whether or Anthony and Augustus filled the imperial throne? and what will it matter, a few centuries hence, whether England or France swept the ocean with her fleets? But mankind will always be equally interested in the great truths deducible from science, and in the inferences derived from physiological experiments. The fact that life may be saved by the transfusion of blood into the veins will be as beneficial a thousand years hence as it is at this day. I will ask, then, whether the infliction of pain on the lower animals in experiments is not justified by the objects for which those experiments are instituted, viz., the advancement of physiological knowledge? Is not the infliction of pain, or even of death on an animal, often justified by the end for which it is inflicted? Does not the judge sacrifice the criminal for the good of society? and the general lead his troops to slaughter to preserve the liberties of his country? It is not the infliction of pain or death for justifiable objects, but it is taking a savage pleasure in the infliction of...
Boston Medical Intelligencer.

Dr. Benjamin Gale was born on Long Island, 1715. When a child, his parents removed to Goshen, in the state of New York. He studied medicine with the distinguished Dr. Jared Eliott of Killingworth, Conn., and afterwards married his daughter, and settled in that town. He died in 1790. Dr. Gale was the author of a dissertation on inoculation, which is quoted by Dr. Wilson Phillip, and of some essays in the transactions of the medical society of Newhaven. His reputation for medicine and other sciences was little, if at all, inferior to that of his father-in-law; and he kept up the same scientific correspondence with distinguished foreigners, and the eminent men of his own country. Like Eliott, he was both a scientific and practical agriculturist, and he received a medal from a society in England, for the invention of an improved plough. But he was unlike his predecessor, in his attention to the politics of the day, as he took great interest in the events of the revolution, and in those that passed during the formation of the federal constitution, and employed much of the latter part of his life, in writing political essays for the newspapers of the time. It is believed, that as a politician, he was inferior to many of his contemporaries, and that his talents would have been much more serviceable to his country, had he confined them to subjects more immediately connected with his profession. He was also an ingenious and speculative divine and a poet, and wrote a dissertation on the prophecies. He is said to have been a good Greek scholar.

Dr. John Osborn was born at Sandwich, Mass. 1713. His father was a clergyman, who, it appears, was a native of Plymouth. Osborn graduated at Harvard University, 1735, and after leaving college he studied divinity, but never preached. He next turned his attention to medicine, and settled as a physician at Middle-
town, Conn., where he died May 31st, 1753, of a quick consumption, at the premature age of 40. He was a very respectable physician, but was more celebrated as a scholar and a poet, than most of the literary men of his day. When at college, he was distinguished for his Latin verse, and one of the professors pronounced his hexameter truly Virgilian. His whaling song has continued to be celebrated to this time, and is considered as evincing very fine poetical talents. Some of his poems were published in the Boston Mirror for January 1809, and a well written sketch of his life and writings, is to be found in one of the early volumes of Matthew Carey's Museum. [See Elliot's biographical dictionary.]

Dr. John Osborn, son of the preceding, was born March 17th, 1741, and died in the summer of 1825. He studied his profession at Hartford under Dr. Morrison, an able physician from Scotland, and practised physic at Middletown, Conn., his native place, more than sixty years. During the campaign of 1758, though very young, he was with the army that attacked Ticonderoga, and in a subordinate capacity, was in the medical department of the provincial troops. He was a man of very extensive reading, and for many years possessed the best private medical library in the state. His knowledge of the materia medica was very accurate and extensive, and previous to the return of professor Sullivan from France, he was unquestionably the first chemist in Connecticut. He early exerted himself to remove the prejudices against inoculation, and was the first in Connecticut who introduced the antiphlogistic regimen in the small pox. Previous to the revolutionary war, he published La Condamine's treatise upon that disease, with an appendix of his own, and distributed the work gratis. It is principally owing to his exertions, that inoculation, under certain limitations, was introduced into Connecticut. He was one of the founders of the medical society of that state.

The late professor John C. Osborn, M. D. of New York, was the son of the second Dr. John Osborn, and was born at Middletown, Conn. Sept. 15th, 1786. He died about 1818. He was a man of much more science and eminence in his profession, than either his father or grandfather, and like both of them possessed a very fine taste for poetry and belles lettres in general. While he was quite a young man, Mr. Barlow submitted to him and his friend, the late Richard Aisop, Esq., the manuscript of the Vision of Columbus, for their correction and revision, previous to its publication. He practised physic and surgery several years at Newbern, North Carolina. After his removal to New York, he was appointed one of the medical professors at the college, which station he held at his death. His merits entitle him to a much more particular notice, than is contained in this sketch. His friends and acquaintance were very numerous, and it is hoped, that some of them will yet favour the public with a more accurate account of his life and character.

TRAGIC EFFECTS OF TRAGIC ACTING.

The influence of the moral feelings on the operations of the body have often been discussed in our columns. We would still insist on the power of uniform cheerfulness to preserve health, and that good disposition is a fair promise as a good constitution, of protracted years. Among the aged we find the most equable, the most cheerful, or the most cold hearted. A man who is calculated to be powerfully affected by the alternate joys and sorrows of life, never attains advanced age. Those who are sometimes very gay and sometimes very much depressed in spirits, die soon; but persons on whom the afflictions of life make but a slight impression, are not readily attacked or easily overcome by disease. No man of this character can make a good actor. Kean owes his professional distinction to the same irritability which leads him into so many troubles, and, had he been one of the unfeeling race, he had escaped the horrors of being hunted down, but he had never experienced the delights of a gratified ambition. Cooke, had he been of a colder make, might have pursued his path longer, and more perhaps to his moral and pecuniary advantage; but it was to the same sensitive constitution he owed his reputation and his ruin. Montefiore was one of the greatest actors of his time for characters highly tragic, and he died of the violent efforts he made in representing Orestes in the Andromache of Racine. The author of the 'Farnace reformé' makes him thus express himself in the shades, and he tells a great deal of the actions which he has never been invented! I might then have yet been in a state capable of appearing on the stage; and if I should not have attained the glory of sustaining sublime characters, I should at least have tried agreeably, and worked off my spleen in laughing! I have wasted my lungs in the violent emotions of jealousy, love, and ambition. A thousand times have I been obliged to force myself to represent more passions than Lebrun ever painted or conceived. I saw myself frequently obliged to dart terrible glances; to roll my eyes furiously in my head, like a man insane; to frighten others by extravagant graces; to imprint on my countenance the redness of indignation and hatred; to make the paleness of fear and surprise succeed each other by turns; to express the transports of rage and despair; to cry out like a demoniac; and consequently to strain all the parts of my body in a fury. But I never had the misfortune to complete these impressions. The man then who would know what I did, let him not ask if it is of the fever, the dropsy, or the gout; but let him know it is of the Andromache?

The celebrated Bondietto so exquisitely the character of Lasignan in Zara, whom he represented, that Zara, when in her turn she addressed the old man, found him dead in his chair. Indeed we might easily draw up a long list of examples of the serious effects which the assumption of a variety of characters, by a person of an irritable and delicate nature, have produced on the mental faculties as well as on health and life. Acting is an affair of feeling as well as intellect. Intellect may prescribe rules for it, but feeling must be shown in their execution; nay, more, "rules," says that distinguishes actor, Baron, "may teach us not to raise the arms above the head, but if passion carries them, it will be well done; passion knows more than art."

It is not our intention to seek for any remedy for this odium histriocam. To apply a remedy would be to put an end to fine acting. We adduce these cases and offer these remarks to show that the influence of the feelings on the life and health of the corporeal part, is so great that no man of a sensitive constitution can expect a long life unless he checks us as much as possible his natural tendency to extremities of passion, and preserves uniform cheerfulness. Unless this be done unceasingly, such an one holds both health and life by a tenure exceedingly slight.
REPORTS.

COLLECTIONS OF THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Case of Mania, by William Burns, M. D., in a Letter to one of the Publishing Committee, dated Littleton, N. H. Oct. 30, 1823.

The patient is Mrs M. P. aged 41. When quite young she was uncommonly beautiful, and sprightly, and possessed of more than ordinary intellect, and was very irritable. When thirteen years old she was married to a Frenchman, and two years afterwards had a child, which was her first and last. About this time her husband, having had enough of her irritable temper, for peace-sake, left her, and never returned. She taught school after this about eleven years. In 1815 she was married to Mr P., who in about 2 years left her for the same reason that has been assigned for the departure of her first husband. In 1818 she obtained a bill of divorce and has never since been married.

The farm she has lived on for 16 years ending in 1822, she, with the assistance of her mother, obtained by fraud from her father. He, to avoid attachment of his farm, as security for debts, deeded it to his daughter; of this state of things she took legal advantage, and drove him from his home to be a town pauper a number of years. She and her mother were too much attached to each other not to live together, notwithstanding they were often in a quarrel. She kept a large stock of cattle, horses, &c., and with the assistance of her mother took the whole care of them; likewise the labour of the farm she performed with the aid of her mother, choosing to do so rather than encounter the trouble of quarrelling with those she occasionally employed, which she invariably did.

She lived in this manner till the autumn of 1821, when, after experiencing much trouble and vexation from her neighbour's cattle, she became deranged, and declared herself bewitched by her neighbours, and supposed herself in great danger. Accordingly, with due ceremony, she prepared a witch-couch, where she might be safe. Her couch was made of blankets spread upon the floor; in and about which were saws, penkneys, scissors, horse-shoes, &c. an axe and pitch-fork; and three pieces of silver to hold in her mouth when in the most imminent danger, and her bible split in two, and bound, half on each side of her head. To prevent her horse from being bewitched, she sewed a piece of silver and a hymn book in a cloth, and hung it about his neck. She would not suffer a fattened hog to be killed, as her mother was to die at the same time with the animal; and her mind was full of numerous whims of the same character.

In April 1822, at the request of her mother, she visited her. The mother's object was to have her bled, and the blood burnt to destroy the witches, she being as strong a believer in witchcraft as the daughter. She proposed bleeding, but the patient objected and wholly refused to submit to it, notwithstanding I pretended to believe in the importance of it in the treatment of witchcraft; consequently I left her without doing anything for her.

In May I again visited her and found her in the same state of mind, but more active in body. She imagined her most valuable things unsafe in the house, and accordingly conveyed them to the woods, where she hid them for safe keeping. Among the articles thus deposited was a valuable watch, which, like many other things, remained there till long afterwards. In the beginning of the summer, she began to go abroad on business, was anxious to sell her farm, horses, &c., and continued travelling about in the vicinity through the summer. Early in September, her fears of being murdered in the night in her house became so great, that she abandoned it, and passed her nights in the woods, fields, and by the road side with naked feet and with only the same clothing she wore during the day. This course she continued till the latter part of November. Then, when the neighbours inquired after her, she compelled her to keep house for several nights; after which her mother thought she could stay alone with her. When her mother was in a sound sleep, she set fire to the house, which was soon consumed with all its contents, except the crazy patient and her mother, who fled for their lives.

Immediately after this, she was confined in a cage, and has remained there ever since. Soon after her confinement, she became raving by fits, lasting three or four days, and went eleven days without either. I saw her on the 11th. She was quite raving, had torn off all her clothes, and resisted all attempts on the part of her neighbours to clothe her again. Her resistance was so great as to require the assistance of two stout men to apply a single article of clothing to her, which, on being left to herself, she immediately tore in pieces. She has remained naked ever since, although repeated trials have been made to induce her to be clad.

When the neighbours interfered, I was compelled to give her as much of it together with the food, as she would take. She begged I would allow her another half pint of rum. I told the attendants to give it her. She drank it greedily, and in a few minutes fell a-sleep, and slept quiet for about an hour, when she awoke with the cry of 'more rum, do give me another half pint.' As she had had great care concerning her food and sleep when the neighbours interfered, after her death, I offered another half pint for her body for that purpose, to which she readily agreed, took it, drank the whole of it, and slept as before. She awoke again with the cry of 'rum, but on being denied, ate heartily of pork, cabbage, &c., and slept. Her entreaties for rum were so great, that she was allowed one pint per day, sweetened with molasses, for ten or twelve days. She did not appear to suffer in the least by what she ate or drank, except in swallowing the rum, her mouth and throat being so parched and cracked as to bleed in many places.

She has never been very raving since the time she awoke, and for the most part, appears to sleep well. She will not sleep on anything but the naked floor, to her naked body, summer and winter, and notwithstanding she would not allow of the least fire to warm her apartment during the coldest weather last winter she did not appear to suffer, but so far as could be judged, was comfortably warm. For about seven months past, she has not eaten anything whatever, but roasted potatoes; and for sixty days last past, has not taken a drop of any kind of liquid. In December last she went twenty-nine days without having any thing pass her bowels, or evacuating urine except three or four times during that period. Last August nothing passed her bowels for twenty-four days, and no urine was passed for thirty days; during which time she appeared to be in health, and always said she was well. There has been no sensible perspiration since she was confined; she is not much emaciated, has lost the power of her lower extremities.

P. S. She did not take any liquid, nor live on anything but toasted potatoes until the 18th inst. [Oct. 1823] when she called for meat, cider, tea, &c., upon which she now lives and appears as before.

The patient, thus far described by Dr Burns, was carried, some time after the date of his letter, to the distance of 50 or 60 miles, where she remained till her death, in July 1825, occasioned by diarrhoea approaching dysentery. For the greater part of this time, she drank three glasses of rum daily, although there were periods when she would have taken a much larger quantity had it been allowed. Her custom was to take the spirit a little diluted with water, and she used to drink with sugar; and during the last year of her life she took no manner of drink whatever except this mixture. Her tasting faculty was exquisite; nothing would satisfy her but the best of cookery, and when she had what she liked she generally ate well.

She wore no clothes, but covered herself, except the side next the floor, with a thin blanket, and would never be prevailed on to interpose a straw bed or even a single layer of cloth between her naked side and the floor. She consented to have a small fire kept in her apartment during her last winter.

Her moral feelings, if she ever had any, like her intellectual and corporal constitution, were in ruins. Any attempt to read the Bible in her hearing, would invariably throw her into a fit of violent raving; but, sometimes, to support her argument she would quote scripture with great dexterity, and seldom without an ingenious and striking perversion of its meaning. She often alleged that she was in hell, and indeed her appearance was generally such as to impress a spectator with the belief that her mind was filled with keen and unloping torture.

CASE IN WHICH AIR WAS FOUND IN THE CAVITIES OF THE HEART.

H. Langeley, a stout robust man, and of about 49 years of age, was admitted November 9th, into Accident Ward, under the care of Mr Key, with fracture of the lower ribs of the side. The injury had arisen from the circumstance of his being wounded by a furious horse, and consequently considerable violence had been done him, and many parts of the body had been bruised. The usual treatment employed in these cases was adopted; a bandage was passed round the chest, and he was bled twice, in consequence of pain in the side upon inspiration. However, he went on well from this period, and no untoward symptom occurred. Until Wednesday last, when he complained to his dresser of pain, the
right breast, which was not acute, nor much aggravated upon inspiration; the pulse at this period was hard and small, and Mr Key, upon visiting the patient, directed him to be bled from the arm to the amount of sixteen ounces. The tongue was coated to a remarkable degree, with a dirty white fur; the bowels were in a relaxed state. On the following day (Thursday) he was again bled from the arm; the pain in the right side was not relieved, and the pulse continued rather jerking. He experienced considerable relief from both alred, and the blood first drawn was buffed and cupped. In the evening of Thursday the patient became much worse, and was then seen by Mr Callaway, and at this period he was evidently sinking. There was nothing, however, marked in the respiration (according to Mr C.), the breathing being rather quick, but not difficult. He had expectorated patches of mucus streaked with blood in the afternoon of this day. Mr Callaway prescribed one grain of opium, and one grain of calomel, which was given in the evening, and the patient died before the evening of the day. The rapid fatal termination of this case rendered it highly desirable that the body should be inspected, which was done on the following morning.  

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION.

On the right side of the thorax, there was an effusion of about a pint and a half of brownish coloured fluid, in which were floating patches of yellow congelable lymph of a semi-gelatinous consistence. There was a deposition of congelable lymph on the pericardium and spare part of the lungs, but there were no adhesions between the pleura pumonalis and pleura costalis. The left side of the chest was free from disease, and the substance of the lungs on both sides presented no evidence of disease. On laying open the pericardium, a very considerable quantity of serous fluid escaped, and upon grasping the heart with a view to its removal, it communicated to the hand such a peculiar crackling feel, that Mr Key was induced to believe it contained air. It was therefore very carefully removed in such a manner to obviate the possibility of its escape. Previous to this, however, it was observed, that there was air between the reflected portion of the pericardium and substance of the heart; no empysema could be distinguished in any part of the sides of the chest; but there appeared to be a slight quantity of air in the posterior mediastinum.  

The heart was punctured under a receiving glass, filled with water, inverted, and placed in a beaker of the cold water; but none of air were seen to escape through the water. The heart was then cut open, after the manner of the glass, and the air thus collected was afterwards transferred to a smaller glass, with a view of applying a chemical test to ascertain the nature of the gas thus evolved. There appeared to be about one-third of a cubic inch in quantity, and upon passing it through water it rendered that fluid slightly turbid. Into the remaining portion of gas a small lighted taper was plunged, but it was immediately extinguished, from which it was inferred that it was azote. The air, therefore, contained in the heart, consisted of a small portion of carbonic acid gas, with a large proportion of azote. The air was contained in each side of the heart, but the larger portion appeared to be in the right side.

Another rabbit was bitten by the same viper, and no copper glass was applied. The animal was sick for 24 hours; the wound presented a livid appearance, and there was no doubt in consequence of the poison of the viper having been in part destroyed by its virulence by the first bite. It appears that the application of cupping glasses is a remedy which may prove extremely useful in all cases of bites inflicted by venomous serpents. M. Adelom has observed in his Report that the idea is not new, since the remedy is recommended in positive terms by Celsus, in considering the treatment of bites inflicted by rabid animals. We may add that M. Faure, in a pamphlet on hydrophobia, recommended the application of cupping glasses, though with a different view from that of Mr Barry. The repeated application of dry cupping glasses, he observes, on a wound of small extent, must not, however, become the means of preventing the absorption of the hydrophobic virus.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending April 21st; from the Health-Office Returns.

April 14th.—Anne Kelly, 40; Samuel Bell, 7 weeks; Ann Gaffrey, 2-1-2. 15th.—Cornelius Murphy, 30. 16th.—Nathl E. Smith, 23; John Williams, 60. 17th.—Mury Ricketsen, 40; Harriet Ols, 38; Elbot H. Munson, 6 weeks; Emily Toney, 1 year; George Parker, 17; William Geyer, 58; George C. Waldo, 38; Andrew Dowlin, 28; John Williams, 46; Samuel Williams, 61; George Freeman, 1; Sarah Higginbothom, 20 days; Nancy Holcomb, 6 years; John Kelly, 3; David Batchelder, 27; Meliah Hall, 41; Isaac Holmes, 17. 21st.—Margaret Fuller, 4 days; Sarah Coris, 74.


Vaccination.  

The undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of vaccine matter for the use of others. Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance. Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms; viz: Private Tickets at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holder to the same fresh matter as often as they may require, and on the day of the week for which it is requested; at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighborhood of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege; or 25 cents each, that may be bought from the Institution or by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded from all points, and the returns of the same, will be made. The U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of all expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages heretofore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received unless accompanied by a Postage Ticket.  

Vaccination Institute.

JAMES SMITH.

Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.  

(2) The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned so large a demand for the vaccine matter, was not the result of any mistake made by Dr Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown, that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed to the eagerness with which the public Wang to be provided with vaccine matter, and the ignorance at the time, and could not have been regarded against any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to an address of the Law in favour of Vaccination, delivered by Dr Smith, February 1, 1824, to Mr Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exemplifies Dr Smith's views on the subject, and contains the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Sept. 27.
OBSERVATIONS.

DROPSICAL AFFECTIONS.

Dropsy is seated in various parts of the body; sometimes in the brain, in the theca vertebrae, in the bags of the pleura, in the cavity of the belly, within the pericardium, within the tunica vaginalis, very often in the cellular connective membrane of the body, and occasionally it is encysted, as occurs in what is commonly called ovarian dropsy.

Dropsy, however, is nothing but a symptom; it is not a disorder or a disease of itself, but the signs of a disorder or of a disease. Cullen gives the names of Hydrothorax, Ascites, Anasarca, and so on, to certain varieties, without the slightest reference to the conditions on which they depend; but although dropsy be a symptom, it is dependent on various causes.

Dropsy may arise from four different causes: first, from inflammation, acute, subacute, or chronic. Thus it originates from acute inflammation within the brain, leading to what is called hydrocephalus internus, or effusion into the ventricles of the brain; the acute inflammation of the pericardium frequently leads to what is called hydropericardium; or dropsy of the pericardium; the acute inflammation of the pleura frequently leads to dropsy of the chest, or hydrothorax; acute inflammation of the peritoneum sometimes leads to dropsy of the belly, or ascites; acute inflammation of the tunica vaginalis sometimes leads to hydrocele; so, in like manner, chronic inflammation of these parts leads to dropsy. In fact, dropsy is more frequently the concomitant, or termination of chronic inflammation than of any other cause. When dropsy arises from acute or subacute inflammation, it is generally attended by pain and fever, a furrowed tongue, high colored urine, in which there is sometimes albuminous matter, and the blood abstracted mostly shows the buffy coat; but when dropsy arises from chronic inflammation, fever is generally absent, or, if present, has a slow insidious character.

In the second place, it arises from an obstruction to the transmission or free return of the blood; in that way, venous congestion, whether acute or chronic, sometimes leads to dropsy. Night-sweating sometimes thus leads to the same result; the heart's action is weakened, with the other parts of the muscular system, the return of the venous blood is consequently retarded, the minute vessels are distended, and an effusion of the more fluid part of the blood, called serum, takes place in the cellular connective membrane of the lower extremities. It is partly in this way that dropsy frequently arises from bronchitis in old persons; the bronchial affection impedes the respiration, and the difficulty of breathing, by retarding the return of venous blood, causes a fulness in the branches of the pulmonary vessels, and an effusion of serum may be the consequence. It frequently arises, too, from the obstruction caused by a sudden inflammation of the external and internal veins, as for example, of the vena porta, or of the cranial veins, and consequently an external, or internal, effusion succeeds. Some French writers have illustrated this form of dropsy, and Dr. Davis, an able lecturer on midwifery, has written a most excellent paper on the subject in the Medical-Chirurgical Transactions, as it relates to what has been called pleghmasia dolens. It is a form of dropsy which most frequently arises in child-bed, but not always confined to the child-bed state, as it occurs in women who have never been pregnant. On the same principle, tumors may occasion dropsy, by obstructing the return of blood and leading to an effusion of serum from the capillary vessels. The influence of this cause of dropsy may be proved by direct experiment. Tie a ligature round the arm; let it remain there some time, the blood is prevented from returning, and a cellular dropsy is the consequence. Some such experiments have been made on dogs, which proved the same facts. It would appear, however, that the interuption is not necessary to produce dropsy thus, since cases are on record where no such effect followed the slow obliteration of the vein, the anastomosing branches having been so enlarged as to carry on the circulation. It must have been perceived, however, that inflammation is frequently mixed up with this cause, though the more immediate one of the dropsy be obstruction. Organic affections of the heart are among the most common causes which lead to dropsy through simple obstruction, as may be illustrated in many cases of hydrothorax and some of ascites.

In the third place, dropsy occasionally arises from sanguineous or aqueous plethora, or plethora. Individuals who take large quantities of food, who allow their bowels to become torpid, who leave off their former active habits and become sedentary, in this way now and then become dropsical from an excess of cold, leading to obstruction and effusion, occasionally without, but often with inflammatory symptoms. It occurs sometimes after the cessation of the menstrual discharge; many women get plethoric at that period, and ultimately become dropsical; some of them exhibit a distinct sign of inflammation, though it must be confessed, that in most of such cases inflammation is conjoined. When this form of dropsy is conjoined with inflammation, the indications of it are present, and the blood exhibits the buffy coat. In the sanguineous plethora, the blood drawn generally shows a superabundance of red particles. Aqueous plethora arises suddenly as in weak convalescents, who drink incontinently a large quantity of cold water, whets the lessening heart's action, and chilling the surface, the return of the column of venous blood is retarded and effusion is the consequence, when liquids have been too copiously taken. Individuals may sometimes be saved from this form of dropsy by a greatly increased secretion from the kidneys, which act as a pump in lessening the quantity of blood, when profusion occurs, by increased secretion. Experiments have been made on dogs, by Hales and others, who produced dropsy on them by bleeding and making them afterwards drink largely of water. The disciples of Sangrado produce dropsy in their patients by similar means.

In the fourth place, dropsy arises from a morbid condition of the fluids, and a laxity of the solids. An example of this form of dropsy sometimes occurs in chlorotic girls. The surface becomes pale, the muscular fibres feeble, the tongue furled, the stools clay coloured, the form wastes, and the legs begin to swell. There is, in such a case, a complete change in the blood, it becomes thinner than natural, and exhibits a smaller number of red particles than usual when drawn. Sometimes, indeed, it scarcely stains linen, being thinner than cellophane. The same effects are sometimes produced by copious blood-letting and spare diet; in such instances patients may die, and no trace of inflammation can be discovered after death. This form of dropsy is often accompanied by organic disease, and sometimes by chronic inflammation.

Some forms of dropsy do not always come under the heads already described; such, perhaps, is ovarian dropsy, a disease the pathology of which is not sufficiently known, though probably it is most frequently an insidious inflammation seated about the ovary. This dropsy is encysted, and frequently there are many of these cysts, each occasionally containing a different fluid from the other.

(To be continued.)

For the Medical Intelligencer.

MALIGNANT DISEASE.

[EXTRACTED FROM A MANUSCRIPT BY T. NIXER, M.D.]

What is a malignant state of disease? Has the term malignancy any definite meaning in medicine?

A great deficiency of muscular strength—an increase or even a degree of muscular strength that is disproportionate to the other symptoms—excessive pain, anxiety, restlessness, or spasms—faintness, or gastric sinking—mobid clearness of intellect, or great delirium—labours or interrupted respiration—calmar morbid—coldness, numbness, insensitivity to the action of ordinary rubefacients and epistaxis—suffusion of the capillaries—great contraction of the pustules—vertigo and double vision—extreme irritability or extreme torpor of the alimentary canal, and of the other passages which are lined with the mucous membrane—and also the same irritability or torpor of either of the organs of sense—excessive exhaustion after ordinary depletion and evacuations—passive hemorrhages—melanotic discharges from the stomach and bowels—all the excretions very fetid, or much less so than in health—palpitation—very frequent, very slow, very weak, or insufficient, pulse—sordes and sputaculations—petechiae, ecchymoses, vesicles, pestilential caruncles, and buboes, and various other irregular eruptions. The clear appearance of either of these symptoms, when sufficiently severe, or a combination of two or three of them, makes it apparent to the most superficial observer, that any fever, whether of the nervous or putrid type, is malignant and
highly dangerous. When either of the first two stages* of a febrile disease is wanting, when any essential symptom is absent, or when it is present in an improper stage, when subsultus, visible pulsation of the crebros, hippocratic face, and other signs of urgency occur unusually early, when any violent or accidental symptom of moment suddenly appears, or when all the stages follow each other is such rapid succession, that a strong critical effort supervenes within half of the usual time from the attack, the malignancy is equally apparent.

Thus far, I consider that all is evident, and that there can be little room for mistake or dispute. The only question that can arise in cases attended with such circumstances as the preceding, is in the latter part of the disease, after all these symptoms have been promptly controlled and kept at bay, by a proper vigorous treatment. In this situation, the disease often assumes much of the form of common regular typhus, with the warm moist skin, and rapid pulse of its last stage, and a superficial observer, without the greatest difficulty, can be made to realize that the preceding and urgent symptoms have entirely vanished; and if there has not already been a complete crisis, he can scarcely form a conception of the quantity of medicine which usually is still necessary to keep the patient in his present comfortable state, nor of the danger, indeed almost the certainty, of his sinking upon the abstraction of the exciting and supporting agents which are employed; or, in other words, that the present apparently mild and comfortable state, is entirely artificial.

But if there be another set of malignant cases, which, though they are very apparent to the accurate and experienced observer, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to describe in words so that they can readily be recognized, by the inexperienced intemperate practitioner. I refer to the insidious cases, in which the symptoms cause so little distress to the patient, that neither he nor the bystander are willing to allow, that any danger exists. Such diseases improperly or feebly managed, (on the fifth or seventh, or even sometimes as late as the fourteenth or twenty-first day,) are ever liable to sink suddenly, and when the danger is first discovered, the patient is already at the gates of death.

Perhaps three fourths of the deaths which occur during the prevalence of a malignant epidemic, are among cases of this description, and take the unwary by surprise. I shall not attempt to describe this variety, for hitherto I have uniformly failed of conveying any adequate idea of it, to those who have not frequently witnessed cases of such sudden and unexpected sinking. Suffice it to say, that if we except the state of the pulse, and of the temperature of the skin, which often attend this variety, nearly all the symptoms, excluding those which may be incompatible with each other, that belong to the sudden and violent cases, and which in them are such prominent signs of an almost total want of vitality, occasionally appear in a very moderate degree; and though neither one of them seems of itself, to be in the least dangerous, yet there is something in the tout ensemble which can leave no doubt on the mind of the experienced, attentive observer, that all is not right—that there is something latent, that there is a hidden ambush, that extreme danger is lurking behind; and more especially this is the fact, when sudden malignant cases are common, and a peculiar asthetic diathesis is prevailing at the same time. Tis so seems to limit his definition of the term malignant to this variety of disease, which he compares to "a dog that bites without barking."

Plague, cholera, lycopersion, yellow fever, the remitting arising from the malaria of Italy, Minorca, Batavia, &c., nervous fever, putrid fever, jaundice, cucumbe-anginosa, dysentery, putrid fever, typhus fever, or typhus syncopulis, to find several patients in the same house, sick of the same disease; and yet one of them may be a case as malignant as the plague, while the others are perfectly mild, and manageable under the lightest treatment. No really malignant case was ever truly treated, except upon the most energetic, supporting and exciting plan, adapted to the emergency of the symptoms, the degree of vitality of which exists, and to the known obviction of the disease. This treatment has the highest antiquity in its favour, and the experience of all ages on its side. We know that it is as ancient as the days of Solomon, and has the sanction of inspiration itself. (See Proverbs, 31, 6.) It was the treatment of Hippocrates, the father of physic, (See Hippocrates, Article Typhus,) and it is declared by Van Swieten to be the universal practice.

To sum up all in a few words—a malignant disease is one in which there is a peculiar deficiency of vitality, attended with an insusceptibility to the curative action of ordinary exciting and supporting remedies, in ordinary doses and quantities.
habit of purchasing annually all the new medical works, that were considered as valuable. Besides, for the last forty years of his life, he constantly read the most distinguished reviews, and other periodical literature of the day. As a physician, he was a superior judge of symptoms, and was a very successful and energetic practitioner in puerperal fever, pleurisy, dysentery, and other severe and rapid acute diseases. In cases of this kind he was esteemed, and it appears with justice, to be superior to any physician of his time, in Connecticut. It is said, that he was very skeptical of the powers of medicine in most chronic complaints, and for that reason, his practice in such cases was rather inefficient, and sometimes almost inert. The doctor is well known, having had a peculiar fondness for discussing questions of speculative theology, and for the politics of the day; and when conversing upon these subjects, his strict command of his temper, and an uncommon urbanity of manner, joined to a large share of wit and humor, usually gave him a decided advantage over most of his opponents. Like his preceptor, Elliott, his practice in consultation was very extensive; and like the great teacher, for many years, he was probably the most distinguished and influential physician in the state. He was one of the founders, and a vice president, of the Medical Society of Connecticut. Besides his professional eminence, Dr. Potter was possessed of many peculiar talents, which contributed much to his popularity. It is said, that he was always able to recollect the name and face of any person who had once been introduced to him, and the circumstances of their meeting, whatever had been the time that had elapsed. His great colloquial powers, and the frankness and candour with which he uniformly treated his medical brethren, made his presence and advice, as a counselling physician, always acceptable and interesting to the attending practitioner.

Dr. James Potter, a kinsman, friend and contemporary of the preceding, was a physician of eminence, and resided at New Fairfield. He was frequently a member of the legislature of Connecticut, and from the similarity of his name, by people residing out of the state, was often confounded with Dr. Jared Potter. No accurate sketch of his life has been obtained.

VACCINATION.

This subject appears to us to be assuming a new and more important aspect. Little, our reader may think, can be said that is new of a theme that has been so accurately discussed and closely observed; and what, they will ask, can add to the importance of a subject which has long been considered the most extensively active of all the preservatives of human life and beauty. A false friend is more dangerous than an open enemy, and if this but half the people into a false security, they will not avail of the ordinary caution to which a sense of exposure would lead them. It is in this light we view vaccination at the present moment. It is removing the rank of a false friend, and ought therefore to be regarded with caution and no small degree of suspicion. When its virtue was first discovered, the faculty were so greedy of knowledge concerning its symptoms, appearances, and effects, that every case was minutely examined, from the hour the matter was first inserted until the scar had fallen entirely off. As our information became more complete and satisfactory, attention to the successive stages of the process relaxed, and at present, so little have physicians to learn of the appearances and progress of the pustule, that when the matter, is inserted, the patient is left without attention or instruction, and rarely is the arm examined more than once (usually on the 4th day) to see if "it has taken." Many are not even seen a second time, and when so many things may occur to interrupt the progress and annul the effects of vaccination, what can we expect but that 9-10ths of the cases are imperfect, and the unfortunate individuals, though feeling perfectly secure, are astonished by an attack of varioloid or small pox.

Not only does this culpable negligence subject a great proportion of the people to this hideous disease, but, it brings an undeserved odium on vaccination. It is not lightly or without experience we assert that this odium belongs to the Profession and to the profession only; and that Vaccination, when properly conducted, and closely watched, and perfect in all its stages, is thoroughly preventive, in every case, of both small pox and varioloid. In these remarks, we hope the faculty will discover wherein they have failed to render an important benefit to mankind, and we flatter ourselves that some at least, may be induced by them to deviate from the common course, and examine daily the progress of every case till it is thoroughly completed.

In no place in the old world is the proportion of vaccinated children so great as in London; yet it will be seen by a piece in our paper of the 18th ultimo, that the deaths by small pox in that city were 1299 in 1825 —whereas the average of the four preceding years was 653. We attribute this to the growing negligence with which the process is managed. We have seen at their public institutions, where the great bulk of that class of persons who are most generally exposed to disease, are vaccinated, the mode above described uniformly adopted. But once does the patient return to be examined, after the matter is inserted; and however much we were surprised at this, we were doubly astonished to see a similar practice pursued in our own country by almost every physician in the families under his charge.

This is a point on which much more might be said, but we hope enough is already said, to excite a commencement at least of that reform, which it is our duty to mankind to neglect no longer.

REPORTS.

CASES OF HYDROPHOBIA, WITH REMARKS.

By DR. MAROCHETTI.

In a village near Moscow, a peasant named Mironou was bitten on the hand, on the 19th of May, 1821, by a horse which had previously bitten another horse. The animal, after running about in different directions and biting the ground every moment, dropped down dead at a short distance from the spot where he had inflicted the wound on Mironou. The other horse shortly after exhibited symptoms of hydrophobia and was killed. Mironou was taken to the Hospital on the 23d of May. After applying a blistering plaster to the part, Dr. Marochetti examined the tongue and found no vesicles under it; and he directed a drachm of the powder of genista to be given to the patient three times a day, and a part of the decoction. On the 6th day, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Mironou was attacked with pain in the head and sickness; his pulse was full and irregular; he became better, however, towards evening, supped with an appetite, and slept well. On the 7th day Dr. Marochetti discovered the blisters under the tongue, but as they were not fully developed, he did not cut or burn them until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The patient went on well till the ninth day, when he complained of severe pain in the head. On examining the tongue, Dr. M. thought he could discover a portion of the vesicles remaining, which he accordingly burned, limiting the action of the caustic by means of oil. The patient continued to take the decoction of genista; he had no bad symptom, and left the Hospital on the forty-third day after the injury, in perfect health.

In the same year, three servants of Prince Galitzin were brought to the Hospital, having been bitten the same day by a mad dog. Two of them had been bitten on the hand, and one in the nose. During six weeks a drachm of the genista in powder was given to each of them three times a day, together with the decoction. In this case no blisters appeared under the tongue, and as the men left the Hospital in good health, Dr. Marochetti concludes that, as the dog was unquestionably mad, the genista must have destroyed the hydrophobic poison.

The following cases are given as conclusive in favour of the remedy proposed by Dr. Marochetti. The first of them occurred at a country seat of Count Cleremeton, situated five versts from Moscow.

On the 3d of November, 1822, a girl 15 years of age, muffled up in a fur pelisse, was attacked in the street by a mad dog. The animal finding no other part of her person exposed brought the girl to the ground, and attacked her face. He bit her in such a manner as to force out three of her teeth, tore her jaw so as to expose a portion of the upper jaw bone, and lacerated the left side of her nose. The cries of the girl brought her brother, a youth 18 years of age, to her assistance, who in rescuing her sister from the dog, was himself bitten in the hand in several places. The next day the girl and her brother were sent to the Hospital. A bite so extraordinary, says Dr. M., as that inflicted on this girl, left no hope of my being able to save her. After people residing out of the state, was often confounded with Dr. Jared Potter. No accurate sketch of his life has been obtained.
On the 28th April, 1823, a labourer, 55 years of age, came to the Hospital. He had received a wound four days before on the side of the left thigh from a mad dog, which had previously bitten three other dogs. He complained of headache and nausea; his pulse was frequent and irregular: the decoction of genista was given him, but did not remain on his stomach. On the 30th day the three dogs which had been bitten became mad and died in the night. The vomiting continued, but I was enabled to exhibit the genista in powder on slices of bread, which produced nausea, but remained on the patient's stomach. On the sixth day, towards evening, the vomiting and fever increased; his eyes became haggard, and the pupils much dilated. Two pustules, much larger than common, appeared under the tongue. I removed them with the scissors and burned them. This case exhibited a remarkable instance of the efficacy of the remedy, for all the bad symptoms were removed so rapidly, that in a quarter of an hour after the operation the brother said that I had completely burned out his malady, and that he felt quite well. On the seventh day the patient continued well in general health, but the wounds were so painful that he could scarcely walk. I again applied the caustic to them, and put an emollient poultice over them; the discharge increased in the night, and the pain ceased. He had no other bad symptom, and was discharged from the Hospital shortly after in perfect health.

From these and similar circumstances, Dr. Marochetti observes that madness in a local man, the development of which may be prevented by the means he has pointed out, but that when once reabsorption is suffered to take place, nothing can arrest the terrible effects of the disease. Dr. Marochetti concludes by pointing out the distinguishing marks of madness, which he professes to have observed in different animals.

SIGNS OF MADNESS IN THE DOG.

He walks irregularly; he does not go forward in a straight line, but turns frequently to the right and the left, tottering and frequently retracing his steps; sometimes he runs, and then stops short suddenly, and falls as if oppressed by an instrument, with his back arched, so that his two fore feet are much extended; he has a fixed melancholy look, his eyes are red, fiery, and suffused with tears. His body is generally meagre; he conceals his tail between his hind legs; his ears are pendant, and his tongue hangs out of his mouth covered with frothy mucus. His habits are changed; he avoids the person to whom he is attached, and generally flies from the society of men, as well as his own species, biting only the persons and dogs that he meets in his way. His instincts are perverted; he cease entirely to bark; he recognises no one, and he seeks out solitary places. Any attempt to take nourishment is followed by violent convulsions; the mere sight of a liquid gives him inexpressible torture, and he experiences similar circumstances if any liquid is thrown on his body. He nevertheless seems to feel a burning thirst, from the mixture of the poison with the saliva, and this thirst is known to attend the disease in the human subject.

MADNESS IN COWS, SHEEP, AND OTHER ANIMALS.

They turn round in circles, lift up the tail, and after running a short distance fall down dead without biting. Cows exhibit the same symptoms but their milk, as well as that of mad goats, communicates the disease to man.

Cats exhibit the same symptoms as dogs; but they are more dangerous, as they spring upon the face from a great distance.

The mad horse leaps to an extraordinary height, runs blindly forward, and when he meets a man bites him and endeavours to trample him under his feet.

The development of the symptoms of madness over the bite of a mad wolf generally takes place in less time than after the bite of a dog, in consequence of the greater depth and severity of the wound.

Archives Générales, Oct.

VARIETIES.

Effects of Lightning on the Animal System.

In reference to the case described, in vol. xix. Quart. Journal of Science, Dr. Fusimi writes, that during the winter of 1822 and 1823 there were fired by Sig. Tomlioni in the arm struck by lightning, but that, as the spring of 1825 advanced, it again became affected; the same sensation of heat, and want of motion, was noticed, when the storm was passing; the weather might be stormy, and the temperature as warm, at times, as on occasions when the arm was affected. He considers the cause as existing in a morbid sensibility of the nerves of the red in playing the animal, and the effects of atmospheric electricity.

V. di Fonseca, vili. 219.

University of Edinburgh.—A valuable collection of the vegetable Materia Medica of India has been presented to the University by Mr. Munro, governor of Madras. His selectionSketches of the numerous cases of hydrophobia which have recently occurred, we have called the particular attention of medical men to this dreadful malady, and we find from the Revue Encyclopédique, that the genista tinctoria has been found most efficacious. Dr. Dumas, of Paris, and Dr. Chabasson at Ugeas, have employed it with great success, and Dr. Marochetti, who observed it to be thus used by a simple Russian peasant, formerly did in the south of Europe.

New-Orleans Hospital.—During the last year this institution received 771 foreign patients, and 561 American—making 1332, of whom 967 were cured, 32 deserted, and on the 21st December, 159 remained.

The Medical Society of the State of New-York, have awarded to Daniel L. Faixotta, M. D. a premium of fifty dollars, or a gold medal of equal value, for his dissertation on Hoping Cough.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending April 20th; from the Health-Office Returns.

April 12.—Isaac Mallet, 29; Elizabeth Knapp, 48; Joseph Boyce, 29; Mary Ann Lowrey, 4 mo. 424.—William G. Lord, 18 mo; James Peters, 66; Cat Prince, 80. 24th.—John Shales, 39; James Russell, 27; Sarah Langdon, 75. 25th.—Ruth Donallan, 61; William Mayo, 70; Phanotypus, 6 yrs. 3 mo. 450.—William & Mary, 6 yrs. 3 mo. 424.—John U. Tebble, 46; Elizabeth J. Fife, 51; Robert T. Wade, jr. 2. 27th.—Sarah Rhodes, 43; Hannah Currant, 18. 28th.—James Painter, 77. Published by Caroline Thacher, 6 mo.

Accidental, 1—Consumption, 2—Lung Fever, 2—Typhus, 1—Mortification, 2—Old Age, 4—Colic, 1—Aphoplexy, 1—Debility, 1—Dropy in the Head, 1—Measles, 1—Plurisy, 1—Infantile, 3—Stillborn, 1.

ATHEMEN.

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

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OBSERVATIONS.

ON DROPSICAL AFFECTIONS.

(Concluded from p. 201.)

DIAGNOSIS.

The varieties of dropsy have received different names. When dropsy is situated within the bags of the pleura, it is called hydrothorax; when the effusion is in both bags of the pleura, it is attended universally with a difficulty of breathing; but when the fluid is poured out into one of the bags of the pleura only, there is often no difficulty of breathing. Dr Armstrong mentions an instance of an old man, who had been accustomed to ascend a long flight of steps daily, to light a lamp on a pier in one of the sea ports, and who had no difficulty of breathing. He died suddenly, and on examination, it was found that one side of the chest was filled with fluid, and that the other was quite empty. Several instances of the same kind have been known, though, generally speaking, the breathing is difficult, especially on taking exercise. The patient is apt to be seized with sudden fits of difficulty of breathing, the sleep is disturbed by frightful dreams; palpitations of the heart often attend, the urine is generally scanty and high coloured; it is often accompanied by anasarous swelling of the lower extremities, and occasionally the patient has a distinct sense of fluctuation in the chest. Upon the whole, Dr A. considers the application of Laennec's instrument one of the safest guides in detecting the presence of hydrothorax, and relates a case of organic disease of the heart, where he gives it as his opinion, from the application of this instrument, that the heart is conjointly diseased, with an effusion into both bags of the pleura. The patient died, and dissection confirmed the accuracy of the opinion. Dr A., however, thinks, that Laennec disregarded too much the attendant symptoms, which should always be carefully considered in forming the diagnosis.

Sometimes fluid is diffused into the pericardium, and then it is called hydrops pericardi. In this affection the patient is generally easier when bent forwards, and is very short of breath, or threatened with syncope on exertion. There is often uneasiness in the region of the heart, with palpitation, and pain occasionally shooting down the left arm. It is sometimes, however, very difficult to distinguish dropsy of the pericardium from dropsy of the chest, both of which sometimes exist together.

When dropsy is situated in the belly, it is called ascites; the abdomen becomes rounder and rounder, till at last it is extremely large; the skin assumes a shining appearance, and the veins are seen rambling across it more distended than natural. In the progress of ascites, the face generally becomes pale and peaky. The upper and lower extremities become more or less emaciated, and if the hand be put on one side of the abdomen, and the other side be struck with the ends of the fingers, a distinct fluctuation may be felt, which is the most characteristic sign.

When dropsy is situated in the ovary, the tumor arises at first only on one side, and then gradually enlarges, appearing at first about the size of an orange, and continues to increase. The general health suffers little and that forms a diagnosis in the last stages between ascites and ovarian dropsy. The diagnosis between ascites and pregnancy, is principally by contrasting the origin and progress of each, and the state of the patient's general health; but where any doubt exists for want of sufficient evidence, the practitioner should defer the operation of paracentesis, till after the usual term of gestation. Some doubtful cases have occurred, one of which proved fatal, under the hands of an eminent practitioner, who violated this rule.

Anasarca is a soft inelastic swelling of the cellular membrane, which pits upon pressure. The only case of dropsy of the cellular membrane that can be confounded with any other affection, is that of dropsy of the integuments of the abdomen. It is a fluid in the cavity of the abdomen. The diagnosis, however, is easily made, if the fest be pressed against the anasarous swelling of the abdominal integuments, it will be embedded in a pit, which will not be the case in ascites.

TREATMENT OF DROPSY.

The treatment of dropsy is very various, according to its causes. When it depends upon an acute, subacute, or chronic inflammation, it may be frequently removed. If the inflammation be acute or subacute, it will be denoted by the state of the pulse, by the heat of the surface being higher than natural, by a furred tongue, by the urine being scanty and high coloured, and sometimes upon the application of heat, or of the mercurial acid, the water yields a depopulation of albumen, but not always; and generally there is pain in the part, which is the seat of the inflammation. If the inflammation be chronic, pain is often absent, but an accurate observer may generally detect the signs of the obscure inflammation wherever it be seated. Bleeding, purging, and a spare diet, with rest and quietude, are the main remedies for this form of dropsy, and Dr A. has seen individuals relieved with great rapidity by these means. Even when combined with organic disease, this form of dropsy may sometimes be relieved; a case of which he relates, where an inflammatory dropsy was accompanied by an organic disease of the heart. Digitalis, squills, and colchicum, are sometimes powerful assistants in this modification of dropsy, especially when the inflammation having receded, the effusion remains as a mere sequel.

In that form of dropsy, which depends upon an impairment in the transmission or return of the blood, mild aperients and occasional alternatives, generally have a good effect, and when the liver is affected, very small doses of calomel, combined with squills and digitalis, often succeed in the removal of the effusion, aided by the repeated application of leeches to the abdomen. The first object is to discover the nature of the obstructing cause, and whether or not it is connected with inflammation. The next point is to attempt its removal, where it is uncombined with any organic affection; but where organic affection does exist, as a general rule of treatment, the practice ought not to be so active as in the other case, many lives being shortened by young practitioners doing too much in organic affections.

When dropsy arises from sanguineous repletion, it is best removed by bleeding, purging, and a spare diet; and that dropsy dependent upon an aqueous repletion, is best removed by the use of the warm bath, by aperients medicines, and by acting upon the kidneys through diuretics. There are no medicines, however, more uncertain in their operation than diuretics. Recently dried squills in powder, and fresh digitalis, are the best, assisted by the alkalis, and a properly managed temperature.

When dropsy arises from a morbid condition of the fluids, with a laxity of the solids, the practitioner must endeavour to find out the cause of this condition of the body, which will be often found in the combined disorder of the skin, gland of the internal mucous membranes, with a torpid state of the liver and colon. What the medical attendant has to do, is to overcome the dryness of the skin by the use of the warm bath every second day, to place the patient in a fresh atmosphere, to stimulate the liver by a small occasional dose of calomel, or blue pill, or to act gently on the bowels by mild laxatives; to prescribe a light diet, and if there be pain, observes Dr A., on pressure over any part of the belly, to apply leeches till it be removed, and the patient will have the fairest chance of recovery.

With respect to the ovarian dropsy, his experience has induced him, in confirmed cases, to concur with the opinion of Dr W. Hunter, "that those patients have the best chance of living the longest, for whom the least is done." This is certainly a very good remark, he repeats, in confirmed cases, though, in incipient ones, he is satisfied that it is best to treat them as if they proceeded from slow inflammation, which is often the fact. This is a point which has not been attended to in the commencement of what has been called ovarian dropsy, a disease which, when fully formed, sometimes requires the usual operation as a temporary palliative for excessive pressure.

In ascites it sometimes becomes necessary to relieve the patient by an operation. The rule which should guide the practitioner in the performance of it is this: when the distension becomes so great as evidently to impede the respiration, the operation is necessary, but not before. Whenever an operation of any kind is mentioned, it should be proposed with the greatest delicacy, and especially in a case of this kind. The medical attendant should speak of it to the patient as a very trifling operation, merely as a puncture through the skin to let out the fluid, and thus to give very great and instantaneous relief; but to the friends, the real nature of the operation should be explained, since it is only a palliative in general, and since in employing it
there is the possibility of an immediate hemorrhage, and of an ultimate inflammation. There are two precautions which should be observed previous to the operation; the one is, not to confound the dropy of the integuments with that of the cavity of the abdomen; and the second is, to have a very distinct sense of fluctuation from a sufficient collection of fluid, some persons having performed the operation too early owing to the great distension of flatus. In the latter cases the intestines, pushed against the inside of the abdominal integuments by the air, have been materially injured by the operation. There are two places at which the abdomen may be punctured by the trochar, the one midway between the anterior and superior spinous process of the ilium and umbilicus, and the other midway between the symphysis pubis and umbilicus. The objection to the first situation is, that when the abdomen is immensely distended the recti muscles are sometimes displaced, and the epigastric artery is carried more towards the side of the abdomen than usual, and it has happened in performing the operation, at that point, this artery has been wounded. The latter situation is, therefore, preferable midway between the pubes and umbilicus, in the linea alba, the only objection there being the tendinous structure of the part. The patient being seated in an elbow chair, and having a bandage previously placed round the abdomen, by way of commanding pressure after the fluid flows out, to prevent syncope, the trochar should be introduced till the feeling of resistance ceases, and then it should be withdrawn immediately. The fluid being drawn off, the patient should be treated, for the first twenty-four hours, as if a capital operation had been performed, in order to prevent the occurrence of peritoneal inflammation.

There is no doubt, says Dr Armstrong, that the operation of tapping might be frequently performed with benefit for collections of water in the chest, and as we have now the facility of ascertaining whether the fluid is not fluid in the chest, through the application of Laennec's instrument, there is no reason why the operation should not be performed in urgent cases, for sometimes the inflammation ceases which produced the effusion, and nothing remains to impede respiration but the pressure of the fluid on the lungs. In regard to operations for letting out fluid in other parts of the body, medical men should be cautious how they make punctures in anasarous swellings below the knee, since they are apt, in some subjects, to run into gangrene.

**PROGNOSIS.**

The prognosis in dropsey should be founded entirely upon the same cause.—That form of dropsey depending upon inflammation may often be removed by proper treatment; that form dependent on obstruction may also be in many cases removed, but is apt to return, where there is organic disease. Those forms of dropsey dependent on languid and aqueous phlegmas are often cured. Dropsey arising from the morbid condition of the fluids, with laxity of the solids, may be cured, provided there be no organic disease, which, however, is often present in such instances. In short, in every case, the cause of that condition called dropsey must be investigated, and the prognosis deduced from that, and the state of the patient in other respects.

**THE STUDY OF PHYSIOLOGY.**

To those who delight rather in intellectual than in animal enjoyments, the study of physiology cannot fail to afford the purest and highest gratifications. If physiology were merely a source of intellectual amusement—if it were only a sort of philosophical toy, it would still be a very splendid and magnificent bauble; but it is something more than this; it is not merely a source of intellectual amusement, but it forms the mind to medical knowledge. What mathematics are to science in general, physiology is to the medical man; it teaches him to think for himself, to collect facts, to reason on and apply those facts to the treatment of disease. Another, and the most splendid recommendation of physiology is, that it suggests to the mind new discoveries, and new combinations. Whatever of truly great or useful man has achieved, has been effected by observing the substances of Nature, tracing the laws by which the God of Nature acts, and acting upon natural bodies through a just comprehension of those laws. The balloon rises, and the lightning falls as man directs it, because we understand the principles of aeration and electricity. What knowledge has done in the world generally, physiology, even in its most confined and limited acceptance, has in a great degree enabled us to effect in the science of medicine. It is a science which by bringing us the powers of natural bodies, and the laws by which these powers are regulated, puts these bodies, as it were, into our hands, so that we may mould them at our will. It has enabled us to give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, fingers and toes—I had almost said feet, to the lame. Can a man have his abdomen laid open and recover? Physiology teaches us that he may. Can life be restored when the patient is dying from bleeding, by the transfusion of new blood into the veins? Physiology teaches us that it has been so restored. Can a fourth part of the human body be cut away, by the amputation of the thigh at the hip joint, and the expanse of wounded surface heal by the first intention? Physiology teaches us that it may. This is the crown of physiology;—by putting us in possession of the powers of natural bodies, by reading us a lecture, as it were, on the jurisprudence by which those powers are regulated, and by thus making us acquainted with those laws and powers, she enables us, to a certain extent, to mould the material world at our pleasure, and to work on natural bodies at our will. Realizing, in some degree, the tales of romance, she leads us, like Vathek, into the intimate recesses of nature, and puts into our hands the talismans by which her operations are controlled.

**ARTIFICIAL MEMORY.**

As the memory is, perhaps, of all the mental faculties, that which becomes most speedily enfeebled, especially in those who labour much with the mind, it is necessary to have recourse to certain super adjuncts to secularity; and an "adversaria" is excellently adapted for that purpose. By the celebrated philosopher Locke, a form of common-place book has been proposed, which on trial is found to answer eminently well. The plan of which is the following: provide a quart volume, containing from 2 to 300 leaves of blank paper. Page this volume, and record in it all ideas worth preserving (indifferently) on all topics, writing straight forward page after page, without arrangement of articles. In order to some supplementary thoughts may be inserted, the left hand page should be left blank. Without a ready reference to what has been set down, it is obvious that, as the work enlarges, it will become of little practical service, and it is therefore necessary to have a good index, similar to that suggested by Mr Locke. For example, let a number of blank pages at the beginning of the work be assigned for the purpose, allowing one to each letter of the alphabet. Let each page be divided into five equal columns, at the head of which place the five vowels. When an inscription is made in the body of the book, three or four words, which the writer is certain will recur to his recollection, are to be selected as the indicators. On the page of the initial letter and in the column devoted to the first vowel (not initial) of the indicator, this word with an annexed reference, is to be set down, with the number of the page affixed. By this simple contrivance, it will be found, on trial, that we can not only find with facility any article, but we may also select from the confused mass a series of articles on the same topic, and bring them together as effectually as if they had originally ranged under one general head. Thus if recording a case in which the subclavian artery had been dexterously and successfully obliterated by ligature, the name of Mr Key, as well as that of the artery itself, would, I am sure, be suggested to the mind. These words, therefore, might be used as the indicators, and the name of my ingenious Colleague would be inserted on page K, and in the article column E, whilst that of the artery would stand on page S, column U, the number of the page being, of course, affixed to each indicator. But it is not sufficient that we think for ourselves, and that we even get together our facts; from these facts principles must be deduced, if we aspire to the merit of enlarging the sphere of knowledge.—Dr Blandell.

**PREMATURE INTERMENT.**

Since the frequent publication of cases in which persons have been committed to the grave before the principle of vitality had ceased to exist, has not excited the popular horror of premature interment which could have been hoped and expected, it becomes the duty of the profession to interfere, and check a practice from which every feeling of humanity ought to shrink. If the lifeless body of a solitary and friendless pauper is taken from the grave for the purpose of enlightening the appetites of the present to the future welfare and health of mankind, clamor and tumult, "horrible sacriilege," "unfeeling writhes," sound in every ear, and the story of the inhuman act spreads, with the rapidity of wild fire, to every quarter of the country. A man, after a fit of sickness, ceases to breathe; the bystanders say with a sigh, "alas! he is dead," and before twenty four hours are elapsed, he is buried with the usual ceremony, and left, if he chance to revive, to stifle and horrify himself to death in his narrow mansions. Such cases occur much, very much oftener, than is generally imagined. Take, for example, the number of cases in which the coffin is opened after burial, and the proportional number in which there have been evident marks of revival: take then the whole number of cases in which the coffin is not opened after burial, and then see what is the proportional number in which we
have a right to suppose life has existed in the grave—
Is there a human being who does not shudder at the result?
It is but a few weeks since a man in Ohio, supposed to have died of small pox, was put in a coffin and placed in the church yard, while the grave was made. "Some children, who stood near the coffin, thinking they heard a groan, mentioned the circumstance to the grave digger, who, however, took no notice of it, and the body was interred. — The children having talked of what they heard, attention was excited, and on the following morning the body was taken up, when, dreadful to relate, the torn state of the shroud left no doubt that the poor wretch was buried alive!" This case, which we have on undoubted authority, was published in the newspapers, and there it ended. No anathemas were pronounced, no one accused of inhumanity, no excitement was produced, and no resolutions to interdict interment until decomposition commences. Chemical decomposition is the only sure and unerring sign of death, and until this commences, no body should be committed to the grave, or even left without a watch.

It is a singular constitution should be so unreasonable against a practice in itself so dissection, and regard with indifference a practice so truly inhuman, so unspeakably cruel and dreadful, as premature interment. We must take men, however, as we find them, and as common sense and the common voice have not put a stop to the habit of burying as soon as appearances of life are gone, it becomes the duty of the Faculty to enforce it themselves. Let us always advise, for we can only give our advice, that no body be interred until putrefaction commences; and if this will not produce the desired reform, let our authorities pass a law to the same effect. It is the only method of putting a stop to this serious evil.

REPORTS.

OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF BONAPARTE'S DEATH.

Mr O'Meara, who has made himself memorable by the publication of conferences between himself and Bonaparte at St Helena, told Dr. Baxter, (who having committed it to writing, has since verified it on oath) that the first serious failure in B.'s health was nearly four years preceding his death; that he had managed himself in a way, for some time, which was almost certain to injure his constitution, whatever might have been the healthiness of the climate in which he resided; that he had not only abandoned horse exercise, and scarcely used his carriage or walked in his garden; but had confined himself to his bed room, without quitting it except to dine; being entirely occupied in reading or writing, and having his doors and windows so closely shut, as to render his room oppressively close; and that, after proceeding in this way for several months, his face grew pale, his gums spongy, his legs swollen and cold, and his breathing short with the slightest exercise. In the autumn of the same year (1817) he is said to have had pain in the right side, under the ribs; accompanied with a firm tumor which was always attended with a dull pain and a sensation of warmth, and with additional pain on being touched. After this date, B. is stated to have constantly felt uneasiness in this part, except at short intervals, when relieved by evacuations obtained from the bowels or skin. — His countenance now grew sallow, or yellow; an incident alike common to liver cases, and to schirrus and cancer in the stomach (which last was the real malady under which B. was labouring). — In January 1818, (about 15 weeks after the tumor was discovered) Bonaparte had sickness at the stomach, which became frequent, as also palpitation at the heart, relieved when present, only by an upright posture.

Mr. O'Meara, now B.'s medical attendant, had all this to be nothing more than the result of a liver complaint; and he professed to be certain that it could be cured in a fortnight, by exercise, strong evacuations, and a mercurial course. After some resistance from Bonaparte, a mercurial course was accordingly begun in June 1818, and continued for sixteen days; and was then suspended, as occasionally distressing nervous irritability. But in six days it was resumed; and now produced nervous agitation and weakness to so alarming an extent, that Mr. O'Meara was obliged to have the patient placed, within six days before six in the morning. In the course of the day, a Mr. Stokoe, a surgeon, was sent for; but he refused to give his advice at the moment, from fear of responsibility. — Soon after this Mr. O'Meara himself quitted the island. This being known to Lord Bathurst, the member in the British ministry who had the care of what respects Bonaparte, he applied to Cardinal Fesch (Bonaparte's uncle) who lived at Rome, to select some French or Italian physician to supply the place of Mr. O'Meara. The cardinal made the singular choice of a M. Antommarchi, who was nothing more than a Dissector in the Anatomical Schools; though otherwise of sufficient note to be charged with the publication of the posthumous works of Mascagni, a very famous Italian anatomist. The reports of Bonaparte's case, brought over by Mr. O'Meara, were at the same time laid before a consultation of physicians at Rome; who recommended cicuta, rhubarb, dandelion, anti-scorbutics, and mare's milk. In London, Antommarchi solicited fresh advice, chiefly from the well known and respected M. Mascagni, who had been familiar with liver complaints; and all grounded on the reports of Messrs. O'Meara and Stokoe, who seemed still more that the disease primarily regarded the liver. — Antommarchi then proceeded to St. Helena; — where his first deliberate inquiry into Bonaparte's disease was made on September 23rd, 1819; but the excessive fatness of his illustrious patient was no small obstacle to the correctness of his investigation.

St. Helena lay within the tropics, Antommarchi was persuaded that the liver complaint which he still supposed to exist in Bonaparte, (though accompanied with a disordered state of the digestive organs,) was owing to the influence of the climate; notwithstanding he must have perceived, that his patient resided in an elevated situation, in a cool maritime atmosphere, which totally counteracted the natural action of the climate of these latitudes.

On the 21st of March 1821, Antommarchi prescribed an emetic. But Bonaparte, who thoroughly understood the inefficacy of his new attendant in matters of medicine, did not readily yield to this; particularly when he found, that the physician pretended to know neither "the seat nor the cause" of his disease, except by inference. "If such be the case (he said), keep your physic: I will not have two diseases; that with which I am afflicted, and that which you would inflict upon me." — He was however at last so far persuaded, that he took one quarter of a grain of tartar emetic, for three days successively; but on the afternoon of third day, an icy coldness beginning from the feet, extended itself over the whole body: the patient also yawned and felt general anxiety, with pain in the head, and distension of the stomach; the stomach being moreover painful on pressure. "I was afraid," (said Antommarchi on the 27th of March,) "to trust to my own skill; but the emperor would not have an English physician." — The stomach however never became tranquil after this period, and was not relieved even by opiates. — In every medical report, mention was now made of nausea, and vomiting of "ghairy" fluid, which was constantly complained of as a symptom of disension of the abdomen, and of burning heat and pain within the stomach: sometimes there was feverish heat, sometimes clammy perspirations, and scarcely anything remained on his stomach: and sometimes "fihaceous substances," like slender shreds, were vomited up.

At last Dr. Arnott, an English practitioner, was consulted; who assured the patient and his medical attendant, that the liver was not the seat of the disease: but this opinion gained credit from neither party. — At length it came into the mind of the patient himself, that the stomach was the organ affected.

"Doctor," (said he to Antommarchi,) "I recommend you once more to examine my pylorus,* with the greatest care: write your observations, and deliver them to my son. I wish at least to preserve him from this disease." — On the 2d of May he tells him further: "Recollect what I have directed you to do after my death: proceed carefully to the anatomical examination of my body, and particularly of the stomach. The physiology of your stomach, the pylorus, and the disease, in the pylorus would be hereditary in my family. Their report, I believe, is in the hands of my brother Louis. Ask for it; and compare it with your own observations, in order that I may at least save my son from that cruel disease. You will see him, doctor; and you will point out to him what is right to be done, and will save him from the cruel sufferings I now experience: — It is the last act of service I ask of you."

But we have now reached the catastrophe of the case: Bonaparte became occasionally insensible; his breathing was oppressed, the muscles over the stomach occasionally heaved spasmodically; and there was general agitation of the body, occasional delirium, icy coldness of the lower limbs, a pulse of 110 (scarcely perceptible and intermitting) incessant eructations and vomiting of dark liquid. On the 8th of May, this very extraordinary personage expired. — On the 9th the body was opened by Antommarchi, in the presence of Drs. Short, Mitchell, Bruton, and other professional gentlemen.

* At the dissection it appeared (says Antommarchi,) that the spleen and the liver (which last was hardened) were very large and distended with blood. The texture of the liver (which

* Mascagni's works have been advertized to be printed by subscription in England, at the rate of 90l. sterling for a copy.
was of a brownish red colour, did not however exhibit any remarkable alteration of structure; (a fact which will soon be found to be confirmed by its subsequent culling.) It adhered by its contrary surface to the diaphragm: the adhesion occupied the whole extent of that organ; and was strong, cellular, and of long existence."—The organ however which was principally and essentially affected, and that which probably induced the secondary affections just mentioned, was the stomach, as Napoleon had predicted.—The Quarterly Review in effect thus sums up the appearances of the stomach. There was a hole in it produced by a cancerous ulcer; the ulcer itself having spread over the chief part of the inside of the stomach; but nothing escaped the tough, the hole, as the stomach adhered in that part to the liver.—Five English practitioners who witnessed the opening of the body, (namely, Drs Short, Arnott, Mitchell, and Bruton, and Mr Livingstone,) unite in affirming in their report, that "with the exception of the adhesions, no unhealthy appearance presented itself in the liver." If there had been any such appearance in the liver as the result of inflammation, it must immediately have discovered itself at dissection, if we are to rely on the following passage, from Dr's account of the patient's condition:—"When inflammation in the liver has continued for some time, abscesses are formed; and then the active state of the inflammation much subsides. These abscesses are sometimes of large size. Sometimes the whole liver is almost converted into a bag containing pus."—But yet no such abscess as is here described by Dr Baillie appeared on dissection; though the inflammatory state of the liver had been supposed to have existed for nearly four years.

Thus it becomes as clear by dissection, as it had before been manifested by symptoms, that Messrs O'Meara and Antommarchi had mistaken the patient's disease; which was mainly, and (without doubt) primarily, in the stomach: and of course, if they had mistaken the disease, they had mistaken the treatment.—Accordingly Count Montholon, who was one of Bonaparte's attendants, and who seemed anxious to prevent all suspicion that he had been wanting in solicitude to fulfil his duties towards his principal, wrote thus to his lady, May 6, 1821; as to the nature and as to the origin of the disease; showing that it had no connexion with the climate, and in his opinion was little under human control. "The body was opened this morning; and it proved that he died of the same disease which carried off his father; namely, an ulcerated chirrhosis of the stomach. Near the pylorus, seven eighths of the surface of the stomach were ulcerated. It is probable that the ulcer commenced four or five years ago. It is a great consolation for us in their misfortune, that we have obtained a proof, that his death is not, and cannot in any manner have been, the result either of his Varderon, or of our being deprived of all those resources which perhaps Europe might have offered to our hopes. As to the swelling first described by Messrs O'Meara and Antommarchi, the Quarterly Review says, "If any tumor was felt at all, it is now certain, that it was not the liver, but the right end of the stomach." Without reference to other accounts of the case itself, or of the inspection of the dead body, we may rest content with the above par iculars, which give an authentic view of what is necessary to be known either by medical men, politicians, or the historian, as the principal fact here in view.—Hallowell Gaz.